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OPINION METER

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Where do you
intend to celebrate
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INSIDE



38th Birthday

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. celebrates its 38th anniversary this month.

LOCAL...Page 18



Top TV Shows

There was plenty of stellar television to celebrate in 2011.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 28

In observance
of New Year's
Day, the Saipan
Tribune will not be
published on
Jan. 2, 2012.

PERSONS OF THE YEAR

The CNMI's social services organizations

The economic recession that has kept the Commonwealth in its tight grip for over a decade now has been a great leveler in terms of the misery it inflicts on everyone. Everyone is suffering, everyone is depressed, everyone is counting pennies and dimes and foregoing necessities at a rate unheard of since the halcyon days of the '80s.

It is, however, quite unfortunate that some people are suffering more than others, their misery that much more intense when compared to your average folk. Their hardship, more often than not, gets compounded because these are the people who inevitably fall through the cracks, their desperate plight unnoticed or ignored as other people choose to look the other way and focus on their own problems. It's not that people are callous or

cold-hearted; it's just that, in times of want, human nature is what it is—it seeks self-preservation first as a coping mechanism.

That is why the *Saipan Tribune* has chosen to honor as its Persons of the Year for 2011 three service organizations whose primary purpose is to look out for the least among us, to provide that safety net that would catch these people when they fall through the cracks and give them a dignified way to get back on

their feet. This year's Persons of the Year honor goes to the CNMI's three primary service organizations: the Karidat Social Services, American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, and the CNMI Salvation Army. For these groups, what they do is not a job—it is service to humanity and we are that much more fortunate and blessed that they will be there for us when we need that simplest yet most profound of things—a helping hand. *(Jayvee Vallejera)*

KARIDAT SOCIAL SERVICES

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

"We all tried to survive with what little we have and still continue to accept clients," she said.

Undoubtedly, 2011 was a year of "challenges and hard work" for Karidat Social Services, according to its executive director, Angie V. Guerrero.

Guerrero, who has been serving in that capacity for 17 years, reveals that she is one of the founding members of

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CLARISSA V. DAVID

Karidat Social Services' staff include, from left, administrative officer Judy Pangelinan, executive director Angie V. Guerrero, and Victims Advocate coordinator Calvani Deleon Guerrero.



AMERICAN RED CROSS – NMI CHAPTER

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

Established 33 years ago, the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter is still in its "infancy stage" compared to some

of its counterparts in different states and territories who have been around close to 100 years, says executive director John Hirsh.

Hirsh said that it was Gilbert Ada who

See **RED CROSS** on **Page 4**

CLARISSA V. DAVID

American Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh, second left, is flanked by, from left, Emergency Services director Juan Diego Tenorio, administrative assistant Mary Ann Taman, and Preparedness, Health and Safety Services territory service delivery manager Kennedy Benjamin at the Red Cross office along Airport Road.

CNMI SALVATION ARMY

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

sive growth."

"It was an important year for us," said Wayne and Annie Gillespie, ministry leaders of the worldwide Christian social services organization.

Highlighting the year was the open-

See **SALVATION** on **Page 4**

CLARISSA V. DAVID

CNMI Salvation Army ministry leaders Wayne and Annie Gillespie believe that 2011 has been a "year of explosive growth" for the local chapter of the worldwide Christian social services organization.



A rundown of the top stories of 2011. PAGE 2 - 15
Newsmakers of the Year. PAGE 15

Local

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LOLLIPOPS

A rundown of the top stories of 2011

The economic stagnation that stubbornly refuses to lift, the baffling yet horrifying disappearance of the Luhk sisters, the scramble toward full federalization of the CNMI's immigration and labor systems, the escalating number of crimi-

nals preying on tourists—these and more figured prominently in newspaper headlines throughout the year. The editorial team of the *Saipan Tribune* narrowed down its list of the significant stories of the year and voted on the following as the top stories of 2011.

Blame it on the economy—again

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

From work hour cuts to joblessness, shrinking consumer base, high cost of living, and even delayed release of tax re-

bate and scholarship checks—almost everything that went wrong boiled down to a single factor: the dismal economy.

If anything, the only item that wasn't the economy's fault was the quake and tsunami that hit Japan in March, further crippling the CNMI's tourism-based economy.

Because of the shrinking economy, the CNMI government's \$102 million budget is back to nearly the same level as it was 22 fiscal years ago. Government budget peaked at \$247 million in fiscal year 1997. It has since been almost downhill since then.

The Asian economic crisis of the late '90s, followed by the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks, the 2003 SARS threat, the bursting of the Asian bubble, the wars against terror, the pullout of Japan Airlines, the demise of the garment industry, and to a large extent the lack of austerity measures by the government led to the steady drop in government collection from taxes and fees.

One good thing this year: Lawmakers timely passed a budget to prevent another partial government shutdown that left over 1,000 employees jobless for days last year.

Adding to the toxic mix of much lesser revenues and shrink-

ing consumer base are concerns over the implementation of federal immigration, high utilities cost, high fuel prices, the lack of a new industry, and pullout of still more businesses.

And there's no bright prospect—at least in the near future.

"The economy of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands continues to lack promise," according to a December 2011 First Hawaiian Bank economic analysis of Guam and the CNMI.

It said weak tourism numbers further aggravated by the earthquake and tsunami in Japan last March, coupled with increasing labor costs and rising fuel and shipping prices, have conspired to further weaken an already struggling CNMI economy. Local businesses face weak demand, a 66-percent rise in labor costs since 2007, and increased fuel and shipping costs. The annual 50-cent increase in minimum wage also does not play well with an already burdened economy.

"I am hoping that we've already seen the worst, that we've already hit rock bottom. If the economy gets worse than it already is, we'd be in real trouble," House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) said.

TOP STORIES 2011

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The mysterious disappearance of the Luhk sisters

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

TOP STORIES 2011

The Commonwealth was stunned with the mysterious disappearance of sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk, reportedly while waiting for a school bus

near their residence in As Teo on May 25. The girls have yet to be found. Faloma was 10, while Maleina was 9 years old at the time of their disappearance.

For over a month, the entire Commonwealth witnessed the most massive islandwide aerial, land, and sea searches ever conducted on Saipan for miss-

ing persons.

A helicopter from the U.S. Navy and a C-130 plane from the U.S. Air Force joined law enforcers and community volunteers in the search. Hawaii's State Civil Defense even sent its tracking dog, Pohaku, to the island.

The FBI also called in an additional 20 special agents and

support staff, including members of the Child Abduction Response Deployment Team. Federal and local enforcers scoured for a week a garbage heap at the Marpi landfill to look for clues. Caves, jungles, beaches, manholes, abandoned buildings, and houses were included in the searches.

The FBI, private groups, and

individuals, offered cash reward totaling \$50,000 for information

leading to the discovery of the girls, to no avail.

Wait is over for federal worker rule but worries persist

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

TOP STORIES 2011

Three years since the signing of the federalization law, two years since the actual federal takeover of local immigration and after a few false alarms, the final rule governing transitional foreign workers in the CNMI was finally released on Sept. 7, 2011, but problems related to its implementation continue to persist today.

Employers, employees, and the entire CNMI were plunged into a world of uncertainty when the final worker rule took time to be released.

DHS issued an interim final rule on transitional workers on Oct. 27, 2009, but Gov. Benigno R. Fitial took DHS to court to block the rule. A federal court upheld parts of the CNMI complaint and sent the regulations back to DHS with instructions to follow proper administrative procedures and reissue the rule.

It took DHS' U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services almost two years to issue the final worker rule. The rule was welcomed with a mixture of relief and anxiety.

Employers had up to Nov. 28, 2011, to petition their foreign workers for a Commonwealth-only worker, or CW, so these workers could continue working while waiting for a decision on their petitions. CNMI-issued umbrella permits expired on Nov. 27, so only federal permits or status were allowed after that date.

Nov. 28 came and went but a previously feared mass exodus didn't happen. Even those foreign workers without CW petitions filed for them were able to obtain humanitarian parole, mostly expiring on Jan. 31, 2012.

And at the last minute, USCIS announced the availability of

a parole that, if granted, would allow eligible foreign nationals to lawfully remain in the CNMI until Dec. 31, 2012.

Those eligible to apply for this parole were mostly covered in Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's H.R. 1466, which seeks a grant of "CNMI-only resident status" to four groups of people, including immediate relatives of U.S. citizens as of May 8, 2008 and continuing to be on the islands, CNMI permanent residents, those born in the CNMI between Jan. 1, 1974 and Jan. 9, 1978, and the spouses, parents or children of U.S. citizens under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

But the governor claimed he

was able to block attempts to have Sablan's HR 1466 acted on by the U.S. House of Representatives before Congress went on recess for the holidays.

Fitial is planning a lawsuit to prevent USCIS from granting one-year parole to individuals he describes as "burdens" because they are either jobless or involved in illegal jobs.

USCIS said as of Dec. 9, there were 5,380 I-129CW petitions filed covering 11,019 foreign workers. This is over 82 percent of the 13,399 estimated "potentially eligible" for CW status, based on DHS' final rule.

There is no telling whether all or most of the over 11,000

foreign workers will be "actually granted" a CW status by Jan. 31, 2012. Foreign workers whose CW petitions are denied could face deportation.

And just when the implementation of the final worker rule isn't problematic enough, the CNMI is faced with another set of worries, this time from a possible application of federal taxes to those previously exempted workers, specifically those from the Philippines and Korea.

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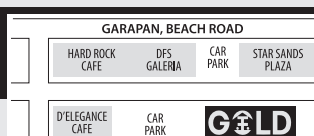
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Fitial EO transfers Medicaid under Office of Governor

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed yesterday an executive order placing the Medicaid Office under the Office of the Governor, formalizing what his administration has been saying all along.

The governor ordered that the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. shall relinquish responsibility for the administration and operation of the Medicaid Office.

This plan takes effect 60 days after submission to the Legislature, unless specifically modified or disapproved

by a majority of the members of each house of the Legislature.

The Medicaid program has 18,000 beneficiaries in the CNMI.

Medicaid is a federal/state program administered by the states and in the case of the CNMI, funded 55 percent by the federal government and matched 45 percent by the local government. This means the CNMI is required to match funding 45 cents to the dollar.

Fitial, in his two-page order, said CHC is currently in a frail financial state and the matching requirement is an extreme fiscal burden.

"The Office of the Governor is in a

better position to efficiently raise and allocate the necessary funds to meet the matching requirement," he said in his EO 2011-06.

Fitial cited his constitutional authority in making changes in the allocation of offices, agencies and instrumentalities and in their functions and duties that are necessary for efficient administration.

The governor said that having the Medicaid Office under CHC creates a potential conflict of interest.

The Medicaid Office is the designated payer of Medicaid funds and as such it has a duty to make payments

to all eligible payees. CHC is an eligible payee of Medicaid funds, the governor said.

"Having the Medicaid Office subordinate to CHC risks favoritism in payments to CHC over other eligible payees. Such a circumstance should not be risked or countenanced as it is unfair to other medical providers, risks Medicaid funding and opens up the government to potential sanction," he said.

CHC chief executive officer earlier said the CNMI will explore a federal

law where the Commonwealth may qualify for critical access, thus removing the federal cap or matching requirements.

He also urged the Legislature to conduct a thorough oversight on the Medicaid program because it continues to certify eligible recipients even without enough funds. This results in a big shortfall for the corporation and the government. Babauta met yesterday with lawmakers to present the corporation's budget.

Manglona scores delay in Rota hemodialysis center

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) renewed yesterday his long-standing request to start the operation of the \$1.5 million Rota hemodialysis center, whose opening was delayed since March 2009.

Manglona first brought up the matter with former Health secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez but, with the transition to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Manglona is addressing his concern with CHC chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta. Babauta couldn't be reached for comment last night.

"It is important that we do not further delay this long-overdue project as the government has spent almost \$1.5 million in construction to have its own dialysis center for persons needing dialysis three times a week," Manglona

told Babauta in a one-page letter.

Manglona asked Babauta for updated information regarding the Rota dialysis center, and asked that a nephrologist visit the Rota facility for assessment and recommendations on the needed professional staff and personnel to run it.

Manglona said there are several Rota patients undergoing hemodialysis on Saipan.

"These patients also left behind their families on Rota for several years now, while carrying a financial burden. I am certain that you empathize with these patients and their families as I am also confident that your office with a group of professionals will begin planning the future of the center in order to move forward with this project," he said. *(Haidee V. Eugenio)*

SALVATION

From Page 1

ing of the soup kitchen, called Guma Yo' Ase', which officially opened its doors to the CNMI in May, complementing the group's food and homeless assistance programs.

Located across Hopwood Jr. High School, the soup kitchen's two-story facility also houses a rummage sale area that is also a means to raise more funds to support Salvation Army's community programs.

A \$70,000 donation from Bank of Hawaii was instrumental in the creation of the homeless drop-in center where homeless clients can get hot meals, have access to a shower or do laundry.

It was also this year when the Salvation Army hosted for the first time a public Thanksgiving dinner for the less fortunate members of the island community. The event, which involved businesses and individuals that made in-kind donations and attracted volunteers from all walks of life, provided a nice holiday meal to over 200 individuals.

Salvation Army's iconic Donut Girls were also unveiled to the public in June as another service program, in sup-

port of the Commonwealth's efforts to maintain its good reputation as the choice destination for morale, welfare, and recreation among military ships.

Their annual Toy Drive and Angel Tree programs also drew support from businesses and individuals alike, accumulating more than enough toys to bring holiday cheers to Salvation Army's young clients and including those at the Commonwealth Health Center.

"It was a good year. We did more service. It was a year of explosive growth," said Wayne Gillespie.

Hundreds of cases of in-kind donations came their way from regular corporate sponsors like the Tan Siu Lin Foundation and D&Q, which help take care of the food needs at the soup kitchen and the food assistance program.

Keeping their overhead at a minimum level is crucial, noted Wayne. "Having a food assistance program and the soup kitchen is a very difficult thing and that providing the services and making sure that everybody gets fed is really difficult. But what makes you really lose sleep at night is if we're able to continue. If we don't, that means a lot of people are going to get hungry."

He disclosed that it is actually the coming year that gets them worried. They are going to be intensifying their efforts to get more corporate sponsors

and donors in 2012 to get them going. Wayne Gillespie anticipates another "explosive growth" in terms of the increase in the number of people who will avail of their services.

"It's fairly obvious. With the economy the way it is, we're going to have another challenging year that's why we need to raise the money to pay the overhead," he added.

At the moment, Wayne Gillespie said their board is trying to come up with ideas of fun, unique and exciting events that can encourage the public to give monetary support to Salvation Army. "Our focus right now is to look for unpaid or volunteer fundraisers; somebody who has the experience doing fundraising. We really need folks who are experienced in doing fundraising especially at the local level."

Regardless of the difficulties that they encounter, the Salvation Army never forgets to count their blessings: all those who have helped them one way or another, by donating or volunteering, despite the economic downturn.

"Praise the Lord for that," said Annie Gillespie. "It's amazing every time we get a donation. Our hope is that whatever business they're in, that it would prosper and be blessed. The Lord will provide for them."

KARIDAT

From Page 1

the CNMI's premier social services arm, along with then Monsignor Tomas Camacho who came up with the idea to set up an organization that will provide social services to the islands.

On May 5, 1980, Karidat Social Services was incorporated, initially launching its Family Services program, followed down the line by the Teen Center, a supervised program for the youth; the Marianas Bound program, which fosters self-awareness and personal growth; and the Guma Esperansa or House of Hope, a shelter for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

Guerrero recounted that during Karidat's early years, funding came easy as the CNMI government still had the garment industry's revenue to rely on, allowing the community-based organization to receive monetary support through local appropriations.

Three decades later and Karidat continues to provide assistance to the underprivileged segment of the community, albeit with less fanfare as it struggles to make do and augment whatever funds they receive.

"Now that the government coffers are almost empty, the funding that we receive is very minimal compared to previous years," said Guerrero, add-

ing that their local appropriation is not even enough for the salaries of just one staff.

Financial constraints, without a doubt, became one of the biggest challenges for Karidat in 2011. There was even a time, Guerrero said, when their pantry was emptied out. But thanks to the generosity of businesses and individuals in the community, supplies would turn up for them to share with their clients. "Without their assistance, our service would be limited because we can only give what we have," she added.

Despite the fiscal challenges in 2011, the year still managed to bring a bit of good cheer to Karidat, with Guerrero leading the organization in taking advantage of federal grants. "We're constantly looking for funding," she said. "That's my main responsibility, to look for funding."

Credit also goes to Guerrero, whose austerity efforts at Karidat began long before the government became fully aware that the island economy would be in a downward trajectory.

"We are very frugal with our expenditures. We've practiced implementing austerity measures 10 years ago. If we did not take measures at that time, Karidat would probably have been closed by now," Guerrero disclosed, adding that the organization managed to save some \$120,000 in the 10-year period.

Karidat's ability to provide assistance to the community wouldn't have been possible without the compassionate and dedicated men and women who comprise the organization's 16-member staff.

"I have good staff and I really acknowledge them for being dedicated to their work, not having complaints even when they're overloaded with cases we have at Karidat. If the staff is not dedicated, I will have a hard time. Since the staff is really good, we manage somehow to grow in our service," she said.

Guerrero admits, though, that their commitment to their work will continue to be put to the test as she foresees an increase in the number of people they will serve in the future due to the economic recession. "Work hours are reduced, businesses are closing, people are losing their jobs. There's a need—a great need," she emphasized.

Still, optimism rings high for Guerrero because community members young and old weather their personal fiscal troubles and continue to share whatever they have.

"We thank them for their generosity," said Guerrero. "May the good Lord continue blessing them a hundredfold."

Above all, the good Lord provides, too. "I trust in Divine Providence, provided we do our work, too. But the good Lord seems to be always taking care of us. I really trust in the Lord."

RED CROSS

From Page 1

initiated efforts to create a local chapter of the volunteer-led humanitarian organization that provides emergency assistance, disaster relief and education to those affected by natural and human-caused disasters.

Endeavors of the local chapter, Hirsh said, essentially follow the national organization's three pillars:

- Disaster Services, which focuses on meeting urgent disaster-caused needs of community members;
- Preparedness, Health and Safety, which provides fee-based education and training in disasters and other life-threatening emergencies; and
- Service to the Armed Forces, which provides support to service members and their families.

Hirsh, who has been with the organization for a decade and counting, describes the NMI Red Cross as "self-sufficient," relying on volunteers for its labor force as well as corporate and individual sponsors and donors during its fundraising events.

"When I first started in 2001, the economy clearly was a lot better," said Hirsh. Year 2011, however, was a difficult period. While the NMI Red Cross still has the backing of the island community, Hirsh admits that the local scene has changed drastically in the last few years.

To be sure, the NMI Red Cross is still blessed despite the islands' economic woes. Its signature annual fundraisers remain popular and are always well-attended. The Red Cross Walkathon every May has forged a partnership with the Public School System, with the event drawing walkers of all ages. The Club 200 event this year even surpassed last year's ticket sales and "still raises the lion's share of income for the chapter."

"We hope in our minds that people are still coming to our events because they believe in the Red Cross," said Hirsh. "They believe in our mission and they know that we're helping

people in the community."

It helps, too, that the NMI Red Cross is able to keep its operation cost to a minimum. With only four support staff, including Hirsh, the group is able to achieve its mission and conduct activities by leveraging the expertise of the organization at the national level and also with the help of about a hundred volunteers who take time away from family and work to help those affected by disasters and emergencies.

Fortunately for the CNMI, it has not had any major calamities in the last five years. Hirsh noted, though, that this year saw several house fires, including the back-to-back fires last month that rendered a number of families homeless. He said these families were assisted by the NMI Red Cross, giving them close to \$10,000 worth of goods that included medicine, beddings, and school supplies.

But even without any catastrophic events, Hirsh underscored that the NMI Red Cross is still there for the community, spearheading emergency planning efforts coordinated with the local government and organizing, conducting presentations, and keeping the public informed about what to do should a disaster occur.

"We're there as the disaster is happening or right after it happens to provide that bridge of emergency assistance until people get back on track," he added.

Hirsh also takes pride in the fact that the NMI Red Cross reflects the diversity in the community, with individuals of different ethnicities representing its board of directors. "We always feel that we need to be a reflection of the people that we're serving."

He reiterated his gratitude to the community for still supporting the Red Cross even in these difficult economic times. "We're just so thankful that people are supporting us. Part of the reason, too, is that there's trustworthiness that comes with the Red Cross. We are good stewards of the resources they give to us. With Red Cross, there is that confidence level," said Hirsh.

Manglona sworn in as District Court chief judge

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The year saw the U.S. Senate's confirmation and the swearing-in of Ramona Villagomez Manglona as chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the NMI—making her the first federal judge

from the Northern Marianas and marking a true milestone in the history of the Commonwealth.

The U.S. Senate confirmed Manglona as chief judge of the District Court for the NMI for a 10-year term on July 26. Three days later, President Barack Obama signed Manglona's



commission, marking the first time for an indigenous person of the CNMI to serve as a federal judge.

Manglona was sworn-in in a private ceremony as chief judge in July. The following month, a historic investiture ceremony was held at the District Court.

At the ceremony, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit Judge Mary M. Schroeder administered the oath of office for Manglona and served as the keynote speaker.

In her judicial address, the 44-year-old Manglona said it is truly an honor to be called to serve as a federal judge.

Search for new NMC president finally ends

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College's long search for a president finally ended in 2011 when its Board of Regents named Dr. Sharon Hart as the college's new chief executive officer.

Her choice was a major requirement that eventually reaffirmed the institution's accreditation with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, lifting it out of show-cause status.

As early as January this year, a second presidential search was created to look for NMC's next CEO after the first one failed to narrow down a choice. Out of the 31 applicants for the post, seven candidates were endorsed by the Association of Community College Trustees. Committee members then rated their favorites, narrowing down to the list to the Top 5.

A few days later, two of the top contenders backed out from the race leaving the board with only three individuals to choose from: Hart and Drs. Christa Adams and Jeff Armstrong.

Top choice Adams was first

offered a contract, but she backed out from the race. The board made its second attempt to offer the position to Hart, who then failed to respond to the board's proposal.

With only Armstrong left on the list, the regents opted to offer him the post. At first, the "almost-president" expressed excitement about his possible relocation to Saipan, only to announce that he is no longer interested in taking the position afterwards.

With hope dimming that a new president would be installed before the July decision of the accreditation commission, the board suddenly announced Hart's selection as NMC's new CEO.

Hart had apparently reconsidered her earlier decision and accepted the \$80,000 job offer to lead the embattled institution.

She was installed on July 5. During the same week, NMC received the good news from WASC that it is no longer on show-cause status but is merely on probation.

Hart replaced Dr. Carmen Fernandez who was fired in April 2010. She is the eighth president in NMC's history.

Rep. Palacios' arrested for 'ice' trafficking charges

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER



The Legislature suffered a major blow this year when Rep. Raymond Palacios (Cov-Saipan), then the chairman of the House Committee on Education, was arrested in late October during a drug

sting operation. He was allegedly caught selling \$200 worth of methamphetamine or "ice" to a confidential source of the Drug Enforcement Task Force and Department of Public Safety.

Palacios was subsequently released on bail. He pleaded not guilty.

At his initial court appear-



Palacios

ance, Superior Court associate judge Perry B. Inos learned that the 48-year-old Palacios has an outstanding bench warrant issued by the Superior Court on May 5, 2011, for not appearing at a civil case filed by Bank of Saipan against the lawmaker.

On Dec. 28, Palacios spent less than two hours at the De-

partment of Public Safety after the court issued a bench warrant for his arrest for not appearing at a hearing scheduled a week before in connection with a consolidated 11-year-old civil case. He was released from DOC after posting \$250 cash bail.

Palacios immediately resigned as chairman of the Committee on Education after he was arrested on "ice" charges. As of today, he remains a lawmaker.

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Actuarial report, Beneficiaries Derivative Act rock Fund

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund's long-term viability was put into doubt in 2011 following revelations by the pension agency's actuary and investment consultants that its lifespan is projected to last only up to three years.

The Fund, along with panicked retirees, blamed the program's main sponsor—the central government—for failing to remit its contribution for

years, seriously affecting the agency's capability to pay its pensioners.

Despite court orders, board resolutions, and ultimatums to allow the Fund to recover monies owed it, nothing was done to avert the near collapse of the pension plan.

The Fund also took further blows this year from harmful bills introduced by the Legislature, foremost of which was the Beneficiaries Derivative Act, which allows members to take legal action on behalf of the trust.



As a result, the pension agency lost its then-newly hired investment consultant, Wilshire Associates, actuarial consultant Buck Consultants, and all its money managers because of litigation fears.

The Fund first wanted to challenge the new law, but later reconsidered after members of the Legislature promise to amend it. To date, the repealer bill has yet to be enacted, resulting in the continuous liquidation of the Fund's assets until a new investment consultant is hired to guide

them in the international market.

The Fund's current portfolio is pegged at only \$261 million, but the pension agency disclosed that only \$161 million can actually be invested in the market after the court ordered it to set aside \$100 million for its active members' contribution.

With the continuous drawdown to pay the monthly pension and benefits of members, the portfolio is projected to further dip resulting in an even higher unfunded liability.

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

CNMI champions shark protection



If there's one thing that shone a positive international spotlight on the CNMI in 2011, it was the signing of a law that made the Commonwealth

the first U.S. territory to ban shark finning.

Shark finning is the removal and retention of shark fins and the discarding of the rest of the fish.

Former lieutenant governor and former speaker Di-

ego Benavente championed the cause after picking up the idea from Hawaii. In turn, the CNMI inspired Guam to also push for passage of a similar bill.

Benavente, who stepped down as a member of the

House of Representatives six months after his shark fin ban bill became law on Jan. 27, said his legislation will make a difference not only in the lives of CNMI people but also the people in other parts of the world by helping to

protect sharks and the marine environment.

Within minutes of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's signing of Benavente's bill, major international animal conservation groups such as Shark Savers, Humane Society International and WildAid lauded the CNMI.

The CNMI's shark finning ban law followed suit behind Palau's creation of a shark sanctuary in 2009, Hawaii's law banning all shark products in 2010, and President Obama's enactment of the Shark Conservation Act on Jan. 4, 2010.

The CNMI also joined the Maldives and Raja Ampat, Indonesia in protecting sharks.

CNMI Public Law 17-27

prohibits possession, selling, offering for sale, trading, or distributing shark fins in the CNMI but allows catching of sharks for subsistence or non-commercial purposes.

Restaurants in the CNMI, however, were given up to 90 days from Jan. 27 to serve shark fin soup, sell or offer for sale shark fins. By end April, it's already illegal to do so. To date, authorities have yet to report whether any entity has already been caught or sanctioned as a result of the shark protection law.

Every year, up to 73 million sharks are used in shark fin soup and the trade has been the major factor in the decimation of global shark populations.

Happy New Year to all!

On behalf of our employees and management team, we'd like to take this opportunity to thank all our friends, associates and business partners for all your kind support throughout the year.

We wish you all the best for a safe and happy holiday season and a more prosperous New Year in 2012!

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Low Option: Single = \$ 10,000; family = \$ 30,000

Garrison's unorthodox style lands him in limbo

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

**TOP
STORIES
2011**

The Public School System went through a lot of turmoil in 2011 but topping the list is none other than the four-day protest held by a Marianas High School teacher-couple against their principal, Craig Garrison, in April.

The campaign to oust Garrison stemmed from what James and Denita Yangetmai labeled as his "arrogant" leadership style and alleged illegal practice of firing some of the school's teachers.

The street protest in front of the MHS campus organized by the Yangetmais caught the attention of the public and later led to a House Committee on Education investigation on Garrison and his unorthodox leadership style.

The former principal slammed the education panel for entertaining what he described as outlandish and frivolous accusations lodged against him.

While written and oral testimonies to the Legislature crucified Garrison, the principal remained firm and stable at his post through the backing of the Commissioner of Education Rita Sablan.

Garrison eventually tendered his resignation in July, citing

irreconcilable differences with Sablan.

Among his reasons was the commissioner's inaction about issues on equity in schools. His resignation received mixed reactions, not only among PSS employees but members of the community.

With a few more weeks to the effectivity of Garrison's resignation on Sept. 1, the commissioner placed the former principal on administrative leave, which Garrison labeled as a form of retaliation.

A group of high school students, many from MHS and



Garrison

his former school, Saipan Southern High School, even initiated a signature campaign for the commissioner to reinstate the principal—to no avail.

Since then, Garrison has been scrambling to apply for principal or vice principal positions at any public high school but has not succeeded as vice principal positions have been frozen by the commissioner, citing PSS' budget concerns.

Garrison is currently awaiting a decision on his Equal Employment Opportunity Commission complaint against Commissioner Sablan.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 30, 2002

'Fast-track retirement system overhaul'

With the pending legislative initiative to overhaul the CNMI's retirement system, some retirees are pinning hopes that the measure would improve access to benefits. But Edwin Fujihira, a government retiree, said the Legislature should act on the measure swiftly. "If it's going to work, then yes," he said, in support of the legislative initiative known as the Retirement Security Act. The measure seeks to ensure that there is funding to back up the dole out of benefits, although it wants to revisit the entire retirement benefit package at the same time.

BOE: Tinian High project mess not settled

The Board of Education is now holding talks with the Attorney General's Office to finally resolve the long-standing mess involving the Tinian High School project. "This problem has been there for almost a decade now," said BOE chairman Herman T. Guerrero, who said he and other BOE members talked with an AGO representative on the issue last Friday. "The AG is the attorney on record tasked to represent [Public School System] in litigation such as this," he added. The PSS and private contractor Guerrero Brothers entered into a contract for the construction of Tinian High School in October 1993. In November 1996, the contractor reportedly abandoned the project, prompting the PSS to terminate the contract in April 1997 for default.

Dec. 30, 2003

Panel pursues own review of desalination project

The House committee on public utilities, transportation and communications is pursuing its review of the desalination project to determine whether to conduct a full-blown investigation on the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's proposed desalination project. This, as the Office of the Public Auditor has completed its preliminary report on the subject, recommending that the CUC cancel the whole project altogether due to "flawed and tainted" actions. PUTC chairman Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero said his committee is set to hold a meeting tomorrow afternoon on the matter. Asked to comment on OPA's findings, Guerrero said the "OPA report is fairly consistent with our finding so far. "But there are other concerns that we've identified."

House to fine-tune tobacco escrow account

In 1995, the Massachusetts Attorney General sued major cigarette manufacturers to, among others, recover the costs incurred by the state government due to smoking-related diseases. In Nov. 1998, the Massachusetts Attorney General and the attorneys general of 45 other states entered into a landmark settlement called the Master Settlement Agreement, which, among others, required the participating manufacturers to make annual payments to the settling states for a total of more than \$206 billion through 2025. As of April 2002, 38 manufacturers have become "participating manufacturers" by signing the Master Settlement Agreement.

Dec. 30, 2004

Fund's investments up 4 percent in Nov.

The NMI Retirement Fund's investments went up again in November, registering a 4.2-percent growth compared with the previous month. Data obtained from the Fund shows that its investments grew to \$382.9 million in November from \$366.3 million in October. Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes said the growth was due to good showing in the energy sector as prices of oil continue to increase worldwide. "We've got bonds and stocks in this sector [energy] and the prices of oil continue to go up," said Reyes. Meanwhile, he said that investments in general posted growth every month during the year except in July and February.

CPA countersues Telesource over airport project

The Commonwealth Ports Authority accused the contractor in the multi-million-dollar West Tinian airport improvement project of breaching its contract, asking the court to award it monetary damages. The CPA and its executive director Carlos H. Salas filed with the Superior Court a counterclaim against Telesource CNMI Inc., which earlier sued the authority to stop the latter's spending of over \$1.77 million in retained fund for the project. The retained fund represents about 10 percent of the total amount paid to Telesource in connection with the project, which covered the construction of an 8,600-linear foot asphalt concrete runway, the conversion of the 6,000-linear foot runway into a parallel taxiway, and the construction of related crossover, parallel and partial taxiways at the Tinian airport.

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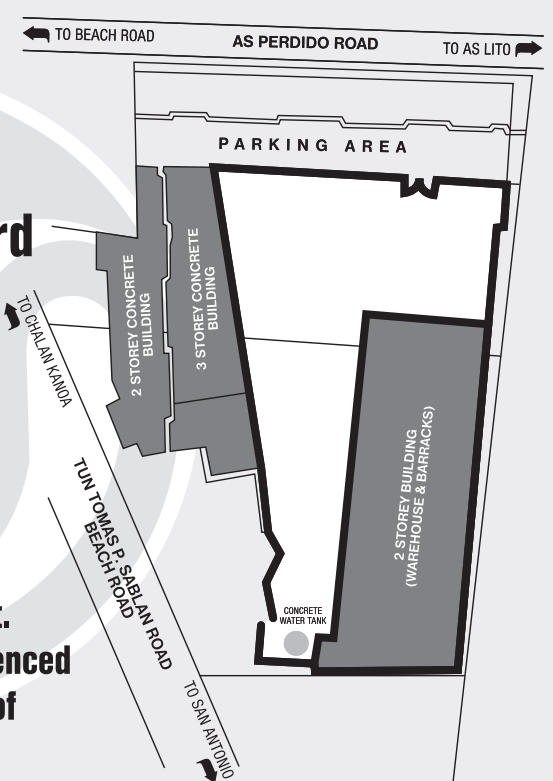
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EDITORIAL

Hang up and drive

The National Transportation Safety Board wants all 50 states to ban cellphone use by drivers. No texting, no tweeting, no talking—not even on a hands-free phone.

It's a standard that goes beyond anything on the books in any state. The board has no authority to impose it. The data on accidents involving cellphones is inconclusive, the government is not our nanny, and eating a chili dog while driving is dangerous, too.

A nationwide ban will not happen.

That doesn't mean the NTSB isn't onto something. If you're not frightened by what's going on around you during your daily commute, you're not paying attention. Drivers are texting while flying down the expressways, sending emails in stop-and-go traffic, carrying on animated conversations while changing lanes with one hand on the phone and the other holding a Starbucks.

All of that is already illegal in Chicago and beyond. Have you noticed fewer people doing it? Neither have we.

A second agency, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, says distracted driving was a factor in more than 3,000 fatal accidents in 2010. It doesn't say how many involved texting, how many involved talking on the phone or how many involved reaching behind the seat to retrieve the toddler's fallen pacifier.

But one of those accidents provided the NTSB with a horrific anecdote to support last week's call for a comprehensive ban. A 19-year-old driver sent or received 11 texts in the 11 minutes before his pickup truck plowed into a tractor trailer near Gray Summit, Mo. The chain-reaction collision also involved two school buses. The teen driver and a student on one of the buses died, and 38 others were injured.

But a nationwide ban wouldn't have prevented that tragedy. Missouri already prohibits drivers under 21 from texting while driving. Thirty-five states prohibit texting by all drivers; 30 ban cellphone use by novice drivers; and 10 have outlawed the use of even hands-free phones. Hundreds of local governments have their own laws covering behind-the-wheel cellphone use. And we would argue that all of those prohibitions (and a lot more) are covered under broader distracted driving laws in force in most states, including Illinois.

Still, a traffic safety commission survey found that one in 10 drivers—and half of those ages 21 to 24—said they'd texted or emailed while behind the wheel. At any given moment, 1 in 100 drivers is texting, tweeting, emailing or web-surfing, a rate that's up 50 percent over the previous year. Most of them said they don't think it's dangerous.

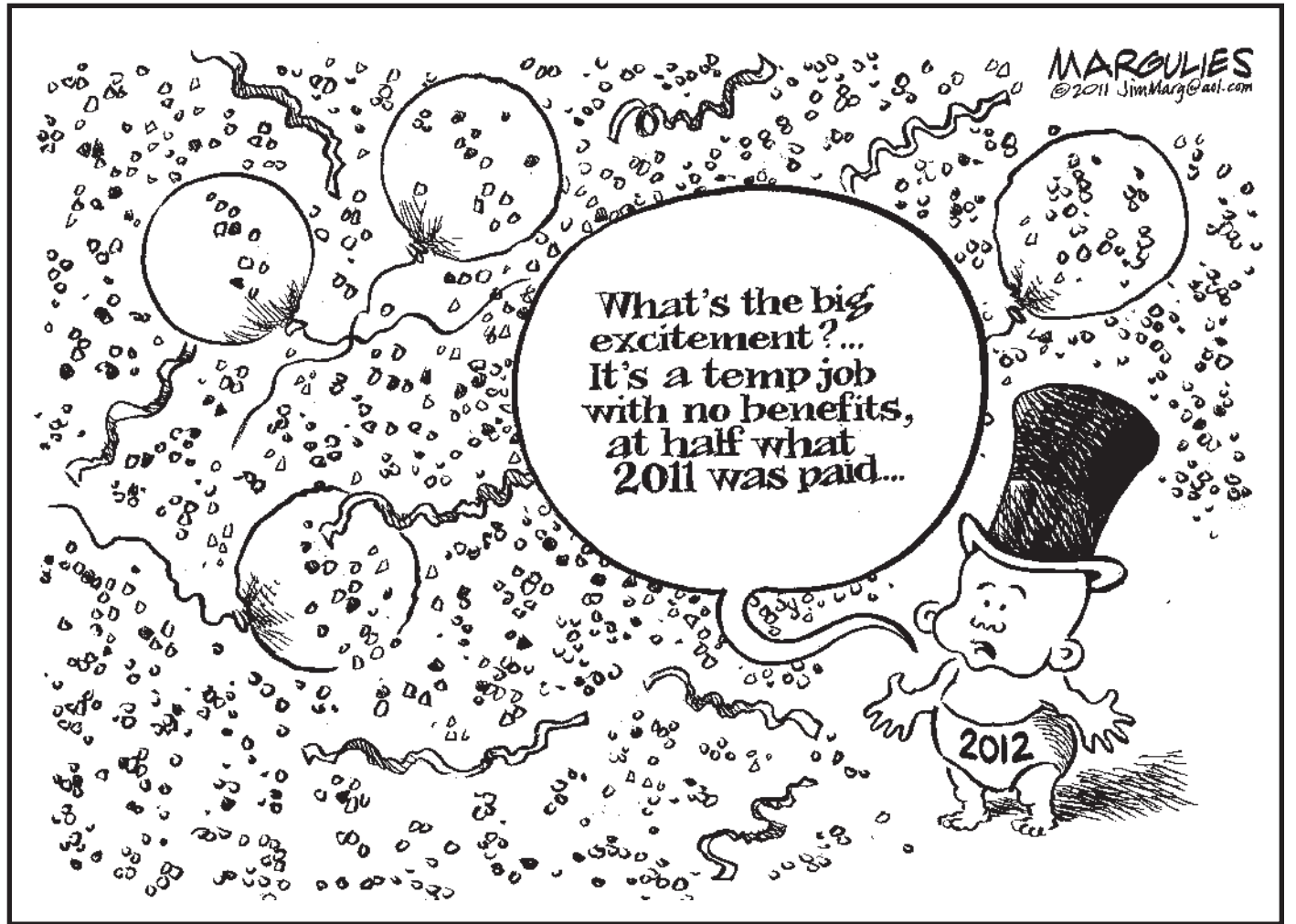
While states have been busy passing laws to limit distractions, Americans have been acquiring all sorts of new gadgets that promote multitasking in the car. GPS systems; MP3 players; smartphones that enable users to play games, pay bills, order dinner or watch a movie while barreling down the Eisenhower. But the distractions aren't all high-tech. The worst local example we can think of involved a driver who struck and killed a motorcyclist while painting her nails.

Distracted drivers are a menace, and they're not getting the message. But we don't need a broader law; we need more enforcement of laws already on the books.

What if police pounced on behind-the-wheel texting with the same zeal applied to parking meter violations? What if those hated red-light cameras could bust you for talking on your handheld phone? If the risk of killing yourself or others isn't deterrent enough, maybe a ticket or three will get your attention.

It's time we all started taking these dangers seriously. Keep your hands (thumbs and all) on the wheel.

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Mi Ultimo Adios

*Tambien por ti la diera,
la diera por tu bien.*

Charles Derbyshire's translation: "Still would I give it thee, nor count the cost"—a life sacrificed to motherland—do not do justice to the powerful Jose Rizal non-seditious rhymes and non-treasonous reasons in his celebrated *Mi Ultimo Adios* (My Last Farewell) before his execution a hundred thirteen years ago.

A tragic figure whose most radical wish was for representation in the Spanish Cortez, Rizal was executed for fomenting a rebellion he did not support. In fact, he was on his way to Cuba as a medical volunteer when, in the sunset of *España*, friars unabashedly frolicking in this life while promising glory in the afterlife to the masses, had him charged with treason, rebellion and sedition. He was only 34.

Life exits dominated our consciousness these past two weeks. Kim Jong Il's *Ultimo Adios* at 69, bewailed by the press for NoKor's tight orchestration of its memorial service is, well, duh. Given our track record at public affairs, would free press be given access to Pyongyang?

Many Koreans in Dandong by the Yalu River, a few hours by rail from us here in Shenyang, gathered around TVs Wednesday to watch and wail Kim's funeral, many wearing a familiar button associated with the NoKor leader.

It was widely known that Kim Jong Il was not in the best of health. In fact, he might have gotten too frantic during his last days trying to get third son Kim Yong Un in place for a smooth dynastic succession (Asian face needed stable authority), while strategizing to pacify the belligerent U.S. prairie buffalo, hastening the deterioration of his ailing physique.

It did not help that south Panmunjom baited Kim's ire, resulting in the ill-advised sinking of a SoKor warship (would we be idle if enemy warships cruised 12 miles off Rhode Island on the pretense of intelligence gathering?) and the knee-jerk bombing of Yeongpyeong Island, geographically only a few miles from NoKor but four times farther from the closest SoKor soil, still technically SoKor being south of the 38th parallel.

In his death, he might actually have moved the peace process forward among *Chosun* and *Hanggul saram* (NoKor and SoKor folks). Former SoKor first lady Lee Hee Ho and Hyundai's Hyun Jeong Eun led delegations to Pyongyang to join in memorializing the completed life of the "revered supreme leader."

As we demonize NoKor and the Kims, we forget that General Curtis Le May boasted of bombing 20 percent of NoKor's population into smithereens. In fact, it was a third of *Chosun Saram*. That would be, statistically, one dead person per family. Pyongyang's American demons are existential! Meanwhile, U.S. demonization of the new Kim Jong Un is already in full swing.

Nobel Prize awardee SoKor President Kim, human rights activist

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



and dissident, a Roman Catholic, ecumenical enough to marry Lee Hee Ho, a graduate of Methodist-related Ewa Women's University and the director of the National Council of Churches, was a better representative of what is acceptable by mainstream Americans than any of the Pentagon lackeys that preceded him, yet he was vilified by commercial and military vested interests in the peninsula. His "sunshine policy" opened direct relationship between the Koreans but it met overt and covert resistance from the U.S. military command and GovUSA, with the State Department characterizing Kim as South Korea's leftist President.

Now the two Kims are at peace! But not their living relations.

Jose Rizal's request to face his executioners was denied, but allowed to marry his *Mi Retiro* common-law wife, HK-born Irish Josephine Bracken, in Fort Santiago an hour before the lead breakfast, after he recanted excommunicable charges against the Church.

Members of the firing squad were native recruits. The regular force had another squad at a distance ready to fire on them if they failed to execute their prey. The category "Filipino" at the time referred to Spanish blood, progenies of Felipe II; the natives were lowly *Indios*, treated and named like their counterparts, the American Indians.

Just before the first volley, Rizal sprang up from his kneeling position and twisted his body to face his firing squad. He was a proud man, and it would have been a matter of honor to stand up to one's executioners. That photo alone, widely circulated later, inflamed the fires of the Philippine revolution that followed.

Yearends are times when we recall our personal resolves and inventory our behavior relative to our social covenants. Consciousness of last January's New Year's resolutions may have lasted with the third empty bottle of beer on its way to the trash bin, so, this yearend comes to jar consciousness to account.

I am six years past Churchill's timeline of 60 before attempting to write, but I am nowhere near the start of a book. I may not have lived long enough yet, but arthritis wasted no time. Will kiss my Alz, too. I no longer remember my own phone number, and when I straighten up and look down, I no longer see my toes. The girth is no longer a matter of mirth, and the blood pressure now relies on Atenolol.

Rizal had his *Mi Ultimo Adios*. For 2011, it is time we scribbled ours. You too, *Hanggul* and *Chosun saram*!

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Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Some factors for 2012

Now that 2012 is just around the corner, let's note some factors:

Factor No. 1 is one we've already experienced: The CNMI's tip to being a government-based economy. Government spending is now the majority of the local economy. This money ultimately comes from the federal government, though it gets counted and categorized in various ways, flowing this way and that, and the local patronage system is a large component of the allocation mechanism.

So if you're looking for some certainty in an uncertain world, the CNMI is it. It has reached a point of stability. This was the future the Commonwealth had been aiming for all these years, so at least this long and winding economic chapter in Pacific history has drawn to a close. And what a chapter it was!

But, still, it can be misunderstood. An economy based on consumption and no (or very little) production, like this one, is zero-sum; it can't grow itself, but will merely expand and contract as a function of how much aid it receives. I think that's why some people in the CNMI are feeling a bit confused these days; they're reflexively thinking in structural terms that no longer apply.

For example, in a tourism economy, just as a coconut tree grows toward the sun, the industry, and hence the overall economy, expands toward greater scale and profits. Hotels are built, rooms are filled, airlines increase capacity, hotels build more rooms, and those rooms are filled, so more airline seats are filled, and so on. It's positive-sum, everything that grows makes everything else grow, too. And I'll note that Asia's industrial economies pump so many package tourists into the pipeline that the big job is digesting them all.

But package tourism is hard work. I should know, I've worked in

every level of it in the Commonwealth, from sales, to marketing, to conducting tours, to management, to international consulting.

Package tourism is extremely competitive. It's largely fungible, it's marketing-intensive, it's price-sensitive, it's low-margin, and, overall, it's essentially a commoditized industry. Customers buy their vacations from catalogs in much the same way I buy laser printers or car parts. Looking for glamour? Not easy to find. Looking for easy money? Not in this racket, my friend. Anyway, for a lot of reasons we need not worry about today, tourism simply didn't seem like an easy fit for Saipan's preferences.

However, a little bit of tourism seems OK with everyone, as long as it's relegated to a distant orbit of the local patronage structure. And that's just where the tourism sector is. So, once again, it looks like we're at a point of peaceful stability, where the major forces have settled into equilibrium.

I'm not saying that everyone is happy with the CNMI's economic structure, but without a doubt the majority of the local electorate is. And that's the conventional benchmark for community preferences.

As for equilibrium, that's where we are. Finally. It's the holy grail of macroeconomics. So as long as the federal fiscal situation remains OK, the CNMI is going to be OK, too.

So the local economic situation is now so isolated from Asia's economies that it's probably esoteric to even glance at the outside world. But let's glance around anyway.

Which brings us to Factor No. 2: My habitual and nervous look at the large, and growing, mountains of debt being amassed by just about any large economy you care to name. Well, those of you who care about this stuff are already well-acquainted with it. And those of you who don't care about it would just be bored by it. And, frankly, I've been watching it for so long that I'm bored by it, too, in sort

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at TropicalEd.com. Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.



of a worn-out, nervous, tormented way, so I'll just leave it at that.

As for Factor No. 3, it's also been with us for a few years: The slow boil in the regional strategic situation. The sparks are going to fly on this eventually, either by design or just the plain random realities of having more fingers on more triggers. Many *Saipan Tribune* readers are from the Philippines, China, South Korea, Taiwan, and Russia, and all of these venues are part of the equation. I feel lucky to write for such a readership, and luckier still when I get e-mail from you.

Oh, yikes, I almost forgot to mention Japan. How could I do that? Well, Japan has been very quiet on the military front. Right? Well, yeah, right. Except for this week, when it made headlines by loosening up on its formerly tight restrictions on arms exports. Has Japan been an overlooked factor in the strategic situation? I'm trying to figure that out.

And as for Factor No. 4, I'm out of space here; I'll pick up this trail sometime in January.

I've enjoyed spending 2011 writing for you. We covered a lot of ground. And I'm looking forward to enjoying 2012 with you as well. Happy New Year!

Respect for governance?

When legislators fall in line to support an issue shot down twice by governance, you pound your cranium quizzing if you've reached the height of unsolicited stupidity. Or is the obvious deficiency or atrophy or both on the side of blindly loyal casino boys who opted to boast arrogance with ignorance as its baseline scaffold.

This must be the epitome of dismissive arrogance rolling down from Capital Hill by boys who have no inkling of the dynamics of economic swings in relationship to casinos. It's a leading indicator that shows if the economy is ebbing for a downward or upward turn. It's the first to take a nosedive or otherwise, depending upon the condition of the economy.

Evidently, experts from Vegas and Macau have taken an assessment of the profitability of building a casino industry here a long, long time ago. The aging Stanley Ho from Macau was here, including experts from Sands in Vegas and other casino moguls. Why did they decide otherwise?

1.) The islands in the NMI are separated individually and don't provide easy travel from the business center to places like Tinian and Rota. Inclusive marketing would be a nightmare!

2.) The population base is too small to support even a medium-size casino outfit.

3.) The people of these islands are basically poor and won't be able to spend what little income they have on games of chance.

4. Global casino moguls or giants have met and decided to look into Japan that is now ripe for a major casino industry. At least, she has 2.6 million wealthy folks who can do daily or weekly splurges on their disposable income. Ours is food stamps; eh, did I reveal the truth?

I've been to Reno, Vegas, Atlantic City, and other casinos across the country. These places thrive because the other states are contiguous to them. Here, we need to fly or swim across Agaña Point to make it to Tinian and Rota, if at all.

Drop it folks. It isn't all glitz, glamour, and tons of money. Nor will it serve as the holy grail of our woefully poor financial posture today. It's best that we return to basics and remap our future on what works best since five centuries ago. It can be done!

■ ■ ■

Spelling 'milk' turned art

Some politicians are masterful spin masters who'd deliver their suspect fatal blow rightfully or wrongly and still get away with it. The uninitiated would be caught with his pants down and walk off the stage humiliated.

Interesting though how some alleged master politicians simply fail to guard the fact that numbers win elections, nothing else! Well, GOP helmsmen have slighted strong Republican incumbents at the Legislature.

It's a tale that while they may not remember what equals one plus one (numbers needed to win elections) at least they can spell "milk." Well, at least they've got this fire dance piece down to an art.

■ ■ ■

2012: A dizzying start

The impending year is paralyzing in every sense of the word. It would slip into our midst like a thief in the night. He'd be in our living room while we "sleep in heavenly peace," content that all is well and good. We won't find out what's missing until after our sleepwalking is done at midmorning the next day.

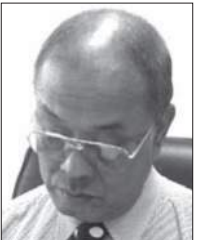
Unambiguously, it isn't "more of the same" but "worse of the same" ten times over. With serious business contraction, draconian austerity is already at the front yard ready for living room introduction to families yearning for leadership. This as they struggle with new spikes in grocery stores, gas pump stations, loss of the only family income, loss of first family homes, and loss of pension when the Fund goes belly up. The prism of what lies ahead is spelled and gift-wrapped in a single word: Doom! Is this their vision of life in paradise now turned hellish from the blunders of the elected elite on the hill?

Across the Pacific, it's unsettling too how our national leaders have trumped the debt to about \$15 trillion that actually totals \$120 trillion when other huge cost with entitlement programs are factored in. They spoke of averting nations in Europe that are bankrupting their financial system, only to slide easily into the same pattern. Troubling in that more people would suffer from homelessness, hunger, and complete displacement. This isn't our vision of our "stars and stripes

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



forever" where we allow freedom to ring "from sea to shining sea" as we traverse the "fruited plain" working with unmatched industry for brighter tomorrows

There's a more unsettling intuition of an impending disaster somewhere nearby. Would a huge wall of rocks in the Marianas Trench out east crumble and trigger mega tsunami 100 feet high and 100 miles long to pummel the entire archipelago? Would more destructive volcanic eruptions disrupt normal life in the islands? Would a superstorm hit this year? What happens when draconian austerity hits more households?

Obviously, the issues before us demands critical and razor sharp group of leadership poised to handle crisis management beyond mediocrity or what we've seen in recent past. That wonderful sense of useless acquiescence must go. People don't live by vacuous promises for better days ahead. They demand to live it in real reality, not virtual reality. All this as the trade winds sigh at a distance with dark fearful clouds gathering up storm. Unsettling, isn't it? It seems "uncertainty" has become our lexicon.

Letters to the Editor

Update the rules

The Commissioner of Education expressed that the ambiguity of the Personnel Rules and Regulation pertaining to annual leave matters may have resulted in the premature payment of accrued annual leave to those who benefited from lax policy. If we follow the Commissioner's justification, then this matter is preventable.

Certainly, if the particular rule was interpreted and resulted in a cleavage of thoughts, then one part could be said as principally valid whereby the advance payment of the annual leave would have been denied. On the other hand, the approving officials leaned more to the alternative interpretation by which they ruled as allowable and justifiable for the expenditure of public funds citing in the regulation that favored their way of interpretation. This is often the route taken

by an administering authority of promulgated rules and regulations.

So, clearly the cause of the problem was the ambiguous rule. Knowing that the PSS Personnel Rules and Regulations was promulgated more than 25 years ago, this issue would have been resolved had it been revised and retooled to bring PSS current with present day trends and best practices. Because of this incident, the BOE should initiate the marching order to the Commissioner of Education and its Human Resource Management officials for the examination and revision of the present Personnel Rules and Regulations. We are in the digital age, and PSS is still toying with paper trails, and antiquated processes and procedures dealing with human resources management. As stakeholders of PSS, we deserve a little bit more intelligent and impacting effort from our professionals in charged with this matter and situation in PSS.






Francisco R. Agulto

Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Yap	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲ 84 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 79
Majuro	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲ 71 ▼ 68
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 37 ▼ 18
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 62
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 69
London	Rain	▲ 47 ▼ 47
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 75 ▼ 48
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 82 ▼ 61
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 77 ▼ 61
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲ 38 ▼ 34
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲ 44 ▼ 35
Paris	Showers	▲ 48 ▼ 47
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 47 ▼ 32
Rome	Showers	▲ 55 ▼ 38
Salem	Showers	▲ 50 ▼ 48
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 60 ▼ 52
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 34 ▼ 20
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 47 ▼ 34
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 48 ▼ 37

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
5:18 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
12:07 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
6:33 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
11:17 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from northeast of Wake Island at 25N167E to 23N165E then continues as a shear line across Anatahan in the CNMI at 16N146E to beyond 130E at 12N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are occurring along and up to 400 miles northwest of this boundary. A surface trough stretches northwestward from EQ141E to southeast of Koror at 6N138E. Another surface trough runs northwestward from EQ136E to Mindanao. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found over Koror and south of Yap between 2N and 8N from 130E to 140E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers south and east of Majuro within 100 miles of a line from EQ178E to 4N178E to 6N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:42 AM	5:56 PM
Saturday	6:42 AM	5:57 PM
Sunday	6:43 AM	5:57 PM
Monday	6:43 AM	5:58 PM
Tuesday	6:44 AM	5:59 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:36 AM	10:56 PM
Saturday	11:14 AM	11:43 PM
Sunday	11:50 AM	
Monday	12:28 PM	12:30 AM
Tuesday	1:07 PM	1:18 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 6, 2011

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP) C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN) C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) C05070 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6 C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6 C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:35am Daily DL297 4:35pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am+1 3, 6 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05076/179 3:10pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm 1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ750/603 1:10am 2:20pm 1, 2, 4, 6 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana	
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Rolling the dice on Saipan casinos

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the CNMI economy going from bad to worse, the majority bloc in the House of Representatives and at least one senator believe it's about time to allow casino gaming on Saipan.

After the Senate killed a House casino bill introduced by Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) last year, the House worked on another casino bill early this year but later introduced a local bill instead to legalize casino gaming on Saipan.

Despite threats of a court challenge from the Senate and amid concerns over the uncon-

stitutionality of introducing a local gambling bill, majority of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation voted to pass Rep. Stanley Torres' (Ind-Saipan) measure.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vetoed the bill, saying it is unconstitutional. Fitial, a delegate to the First North-

ern Marianas Constitutional Convention, said the local casino bill was "irregularly introduced and passed without authority and is invalid on this basis."

One of the local bill's sup-

porters, Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), challenged in court the governor's veto of the bill. That court challenge is ongoing.



Tenorio

Meanwhile, two House members—Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) and Torres—introduced yet another House bill legalizing casinos on Saipan. As expected, the gambling bill passed the House. The Senate Committee on Federal Relations and Independent

Agencies is reviewing the bill.

Prior to the passage of the bill, the Senate partnered with the Current Issues class of

Sam McPhetres at Northern Marianas College to conduct a survey among Saipan voters. Less than 7 percent of Saipan voters participated. Moreover, there was only a nine-vote difference in favor of those opposed to casinos on Saipan.

While the Senate used to be solid in opposing any legislation that allows casino gambling on Saipan, at least one senator had a change of heart—Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan). Reyes, just like the governor months back, called on senators to have an open mind about allowing casinos on Saipan.

Tinian and Rota voters allowed casino operations on their islands.

**TOP
STORIES
2011**

Holiday Season Impaired Driving Month

Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Campaign

November 27, 2011 through January 3, 2012

**BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING AND FRIENDS
DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.**

**BAM! YOUR
LIFE JUST
CHANGED.**



**Have a Safe
Holiday Season!**

Drive drunk and you will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.



December 31, 2011

Gala Dinner

**\$80.00 - Adult / \$40.00 - Child
(6-11 yrs. old)**

(include Countdown party)

Countdown Party

**\$20.00 - Adult / \$15.00 - Child
(6-11 yrs. old)**

*(include one Bingo Card and
Bottomless Drink)*

**Bingo Game, Parlor Game,
Cultural Dance, Fire Dance etc.**

January 1, 2012

Hang Over Brunch

**\$30.00 - Adult / \$15.00 - Child
(6-11 yrs. old)**

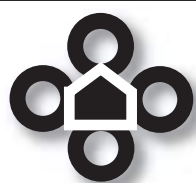
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Attorney general-public auditor row turns ugly

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

This year saw Attorney General Edward Buckingham and Public Auditor Michael Pai in a very public spat over a host of issues that many believe started when the Office of the Public Auditor investigated Buckingham's campaign-related activities in 2010.

In June, Buckingham filed a lawsuit against Pai over OPA's hiring of two lawyers.

Pai described the AG's complaint as "the latest of what appears to be a series of attempts by the AG to disrupt OPA's

access to legal counsel and to challenge its autonomy."

One of the lawyers, Joseph John Przyuski, was the lead OPA investigator in the complaints filed against Buckingham related to his alleged hosting of a gathering for the campaign of then Covenant Party delegate Joseph Camacho, now a Superior Court judge.

Buckingham fired back at Pai, saying it's his duty and responsibility as attorney general to ensure that public funds are not wasted, for OPA to

comply with hiring rules, and not a way to get back at the latter over OPA's investigation into the AG's campaign-related activities.

A month later, Buckingham accused Pai of leaking an Inspector General investigation on the Fitial administration's \$392,406 sole-source contract with former Commerce secretary Michael Ada's firm to manage ARRA funds.

Pai belied Buckingham's accusation. He said OPA didn't have a hand in leaking the IG's

report on the privatization of CNMI ARRA funds to the media. In fact, a redacted copy of the IG report can be accessed through the Interior's website.

In October, a copy of OPA's 2010 investigation report on the AG was leaked to the media and certain members of the community.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial suppressed the public release of that OPA report dated December 2010.

The leaked OPA report concluded that Buckingham's actions "violated criminal prohibitions" of both the Commonwealth Ethics Code Act and the Commonwealth Election Act when he hosted a campaign party for delegate candidate.

Buckingham denied hosting

a political gathering, using his official position to endorse any candidate, and directing anyone to vote for any person. He said the papers that may have been leaked were not official and questionable.

On the heels of the release of the leaked report, Buckingham's office filed a criminal case against the public auditor's wife, Joanna, for allegedly stealing utility services amounting to over \$51,000.

The governor, in interviews with reporters, had always defended Buckingham, saying the AG did not violate any law related to the 2010 elections.

But critics said if the AG did not do anything wrong, he or the governor should release the OPA report.

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Feel the difference

Japan's triple disasters pummel CNMI tourism

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The triple disasters that hit Japan last March 11 brought the CNMI's tourism industry to its knees in 2011.

The earthquake and subsequent tsunami and nuclear fallout hit the Sendai region of Japan brought further uncertainties to the islands' remaining industry, as thousands from its key markets in Japan—Tokyo, Osaka, and Nagoya—cancelled their trips to the CNMI.

The Marianas Visitors Authority assessed that a total of 2,640 tourists from the area cancelled their vacations on island just a week after the disaster. These cancellations covered only up to June this year and may continue until the rest of the year pending Japan's recovery.

It was projected that initial direct negative impact to the economy was at \$6 million just two weeks after the tragedy.

The trip cancellations' ripple effect was evident on the island, as significant losses were incurred by hotels that led to layoffs of personnel in the local tour and travel sectors.

MVA noted 28 percent unemployment in public sector and 31 percent unemployment in private sector as a result of the Japan tragedy.

The tourism body also delayed some of its activities as a result of the incident. The CNMI, since 2005, has experienced a dramatic decline in tourist arrivals due to the pullout of Japan Airlines from the Commonwealth.

Healthcare corporation takes over hospital

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The implementation of the long-delayed Commonwealth

Healthcare Corp. Act of 2008 brought the public health sector not only significant changes but controversies and confusion as well. This after the Office of the

Attorney General and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial ruled that upon takeover on Oct. 1, the corporation automatically dissolved all functions of the Department of

Public Health.

Prior to the takeover, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and former Public Health secretary Kevin Villagomez separately stated that

the healthcare corporation will be independent of DPH, which will handle preventive programs, most of which are federally funded. This opinion was countered by the governor and Attorney General Edward Buckingham. Villagomez was ousted from his position as a result of the takeover.

Fitial swore into office the new corporation's board members and selected Juan N. Babauta as the organization's chief executive officer on Oct. 24.

Since its first day, corporation officials started running the hospital and other related functions through the \$5 million seed money appropriated by the Legislature. The discovery of mount-

ing piles of uncoded billings, receivables, and collectibles were disclosed to the public, including discrepancies in vendors' contracts and other services.

Besides the corporation takeover, the health department was also put on the spot when the administration declared a state of emergency following the discovery that the hospital is short of physicians and lacks important supplies that hamper the delivery of services. From the decade-old billings, receivables, and other obligations, the emergency declaration also shone the spotlight on the serious impact of the hospital service condition on Medicare standards.

Robbers prey on tourists

Robbers preying on poker arcades, stores, and individuals were very active throughout the year, but the latter part of the year saw an escalation in the number of criminals victimizing tourists.

While police made a couple of arrests, most of the cases remain unsolved up until now.

It started in October when an unidentified man, armed with a screwdriver, robbed a female Russian tourist and took off in her rented car at Suicide Cliff in Marpi. The tourist lost her bag containing over \$100 cash, a digital camera worth \$1,200, hotel keys, documents, and other items.

The victim suffered bruises to the elbows after she fell to the ground during the struggle.

That same month, an unidentified man robbed a 51-year-old local female who was with her daughter playing golf at Coral Ocean Point.

After a week, an unidentified man robbed some tourists who were playing golf at Mariana Country Club in Marpi.

Robbers continued causing havoc in November, when a female Japanese tourist suffered multiple injuries after a man grabbed her bag as she was walking with her

boyfriend along Beach Road, Garapan. The female victim tried to hang on to the window of the getaway car, causing her to be dragged several meters before falling to the ground.

After a few days, police arrested the suspect and the driver of a getaway vehicle.

While robbers were active, burglars or thieves were also busy preying on tourists at beaches in October.

A Japanese couple lost their valuables to a thief or thieves at Ladder Beach.

A few days later, a car rent-

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NEWSMAKERS OF THE YEAR



Fitial



Inos

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos

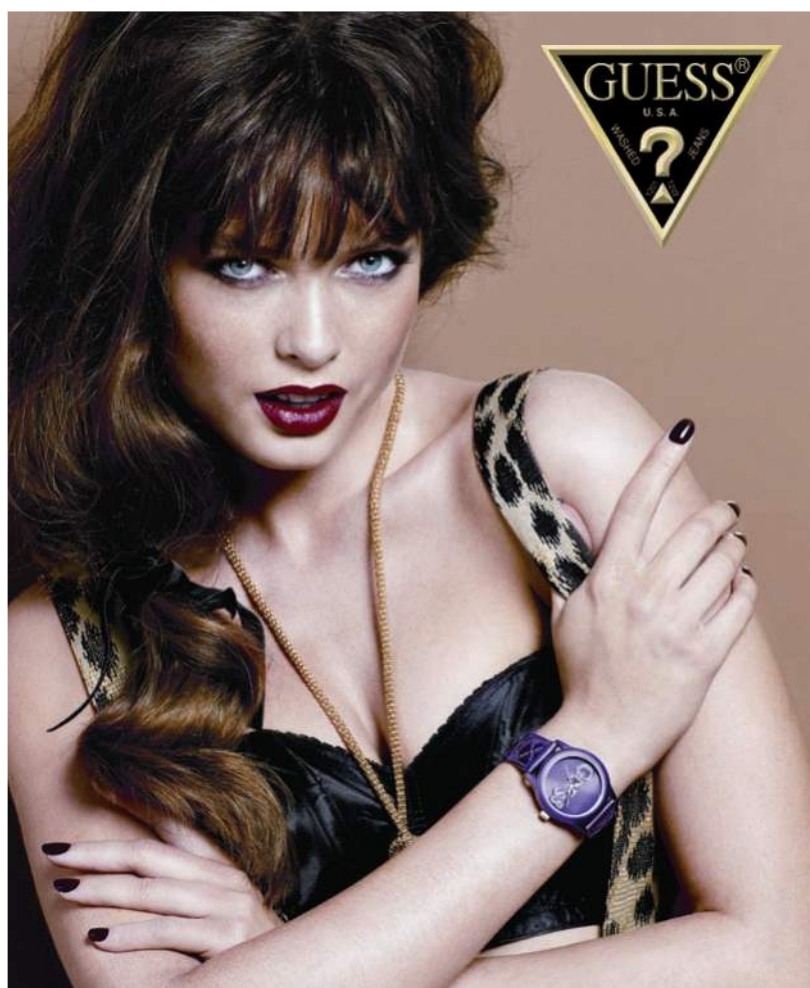
For the first time in CNMI history, the governor and the lieutenant governor belong to two different parties.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, founder of the Covenant Party 2001, rejoined the Republican Party in January this year until he became its president again in November.

But Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, a former Finance secretary, stayed with the Covenant Party, and there's no indication he will follow Fitial's lead. Other Covenant Party lawmakers have also stayed with the party.

Despite their reported rift over professional and

See NEWSMAKERS on Page 20



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Pacifica Insurance marks 38 years of outstanding service

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of the most respected and leading names in the insurance

business in the CNMI is celebrating a momentous occasion this month when Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. marks its 38th anniversary of

providing personal and commercial insurance products.

Founded in 1973 by a group of investors that saw the need to help the community obtain

protection from the unexpected, Pacifica Insurance has since established itself as an insurance market leader, representing insurance carriers in

an agent and broker capacity and getting its clients "Rest Assured."

Since its inception, Pacifica Insurance has been steadfast in providing the Commonwealth with comprehensive insurance services for just about everything—life, health, home, automobile, marine, bonding, and commercial insurances—working consistently to position itself as a premier insurance company in constant pursuit of the highest standards of excellence.

From its humble beginnings 38 years ago, Pacifica Insurance has evolved through the years, forming strategic partnerships and expanding into new markets in efforts to remain focused and continue realizing its goal to provide the best coverage and service that will exceed expectations.

In celebration of another milestone in its history, Pacifica Insurance is giving away shopping sprees and has launched its loyalty program called Pacific Loyalty, which entitles its clients to countless discounts and other benefits. Additionally, Pacifica Insurance gives back to the community by participating in charitable events and donating to various altruistic efforts.

Challenges

Pacifica Insurance's over three decades in the insurance trade wasn't smooth sailing throughout, with several events such as the Asian crisis, the SARS outbreak, and the 9/11 attacks having significant impacts on

the island economy and affecting businesses as a result, says president and chief executive officer Norman Tenorio.

These challenges, Tenorio said, underscored all the more the fact that obtaining insurance for the sake of protection and security has become indispensable.

"Insurance, in our opinion, is just as important as food and water. As mortals, we would face catastrophic events at one point in our lives and insurance is that product we

can all have in order to remain sane as we face such crisis," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

While most businesses understand and recognize the importance of insurance, Tenorio is hoping to see a consensus from the rest of the island community regarding the value of getting protection and coverage from only the best in the industry.

Full understanding

Shirley Sablan, general manager for Pacifica Insurance, points out that people purchase insurance for many reasons but without fully understanding what they are paying for most of the time. Purchasing insurance, she said, is akin to purchasing a canned good wherein you take note of the expiration date, check the packaging and ingredients.

"With insurance, we should also have a checklist to justify the premium we are paying for," said Sablan.

Questions should be raised, such as "What company am I buying my policy from?" "Is the company financially stable?" "Will that company still be around when I need the money?" Is the company more capable financially than its competition?" "How am I covered and what are some exceptions?"

"When in doubt, observe and ask questions. When certain, observe at length and ask many more questions. After all, money does not grow on trees so ask before paying," advised Sablan.

Best service

Pacifica Insurance, Sablan said, takes pride in its highly knowledgeable staff who can attend to all queries of customers and potential clients and provide superior customer service which they plan to further improve.

Efforts include making it easy for the public to obtain insurance with the help of their website (pacificains.com) that contains all information regarding various types of insurance, maintain their normal hours of operation, and continue receiving training in underwriting and claims services to increase their depth of knowledge, efficiency and accuracy.

See PACIFICA on Next Page



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pacifica
Insurance
Underwriters, Inc.

on your

38th Anniversary!

Greetings from

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



CLARISSA V. DAVID

The management and staff of Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. led by president and chief executive officer Norman Tenorio, center, and general manager Shirley Sablan, fourth right, pose for a group photo outside their office at the Joeten Center in Susupe. Founded in 1973 by a group of investors with a vision for insurance needs, PIUI is celebrating its 38th anniversary this month.

PACIFICA

From Page 18

cessibility.

Chief underwriter Jessica Pangelinan says underwriting requires a lot of knowledge and experience and Pacifica Insurance has the experience in this field.

"We cannot improve underwriting—we can only understand it," Pangelinan said. "Individuals as well as businesses must choose a company that understands underwriting in order to get the best out of their investment."

Coverage

According to Pangelinan, what makes Pacifica Insurance different from its competitors is the way it provides coverage to its clientele, which can be found in the insurance policy "often overlooked and unread."

"Take auto insurance, for example. Some may offer roadside service and some may not. Some may offer coverage on property damage for uninsured motorist and some may not. We are confident we can offer the best coverage for all lines because we understand that our policies can offer more," she explained.

On the side of claims, Pacifica Insurance is "running on full throttle" with speed and efficiency, says claims adjuster Jose Tenorio.

Jose Tenorio disclosed that automobile is the most com-

mon claim and that the biggest claims come from businesses.

"This is why more businesses now are starting to realize just how important it is to have insurance," he said. "I've seen businesses lose most, if not all, of their assets because of claims. The number of claims has risen simply because we have seen more people acquiring more insurance."

Unfortunate incidents, Tenorio said, is when Pacifica Insurance steps in to help and cover someone's losses. "People need to realize that we don't live in a perfect world—and in an imperfect world there are many uncertainties."

The very best

Sablan emphasized that people buying insurance should only purchase from the best, and Pacifica Insurance represents "the very best."

"We are backed by the best carriers that consistently maintain high financial and security ratings: Tokio Marine Pacific Limited, Century Insurance, and Pacific Guardian Life and we offer group health plans through Select Care and Take Care. We will continue to train and enhance our ability to perfect our underwriting and claims services skills. We will continue to invest in technology. There will be continuous improvement. But most importantly, we will continue to love what we do and that is helping others secure their families and their futures."

In memoriam

Pacifica Insurance was recently saddened by the untimely death of its former general manager and executive vice president, Estanislao "Stan" Waki.

Norman Tenorio described him as a charismatic individual with a strong passion for insurance, an asset to a company where he contributed much and helped make it successful.

"Stan was not only a colleague but a friend to the Pacifica team. Although his departure will leave a sense of emptiness because of all the years we've shared with him, our company will continue the tradition of providing our community with efficient service and premium insurance products. He will con-

tinue to live on in our hearts and will forever be grateful for his great contributions to our company," said Norman Tenorio.

Top choice

Norman Tenorio envisions Pacifica Insurance as the top choice in insurance 10 years down the road.

"Our goal is to become a household name not because people love us but because they find our products superior and our services satisfactory. The insurance market isn't growing, but our goal is to retain and continue to gain the trust necessary to stay in business a decade and more from today," he said.

Rest Assured.

Congratulations

to Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.
on their 38th Anniversary!

We wish you the best and may you continue to provide excellent service for the years to come!

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CONGRATULATIONS

pacific
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On your 38th Anniversary!

Cheers to your 38 years of excellent service!
Keep the spirit high for more years ahead.

CIC

From the management and staff of **Century Insurance**
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NEWSMAKERS

From Page 16

personal reasons, Fitial and Inos have remained civil with each other and have continued working together to run

the CNMI government. Fitial can't seek reelection for a third term, while Inos seems to be waiting for his turn to become governor. Fitial and Inos had been friends for years.

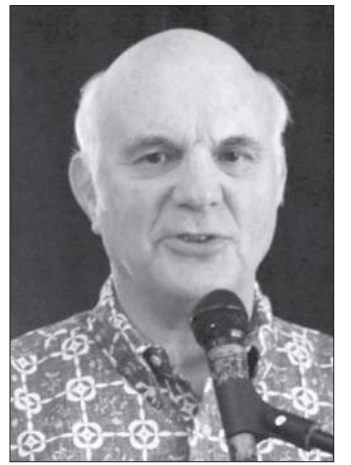
Some Republican lawmakers are not supporting Fitial's

presidency of the party he abandoned 10 years ago only to lead it again. Fitial, in an interview with reporters, said his message to Republicans who are not happy with him to "drink milk." Days later, Fitial asked lawmakers from different parties

whether they want to join him and run under the Republican Party. The governor gave these lawmakers up to today to make a decision.

In 2011, Fitial has traveled far and near for both official functions and personal reasons such

as medical checkups. At one point, Fitial and his administration officials were accused of spending lavishly on steaks and lobsters during their off-island travel while the CNMI is in deep financial turmoil. (*Haidee V. Eugenio*)



Gulick

David Gulick

The face of federalization in the CNMI might easily be David Gulick, Honolulu district director for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. USCIS is an agency under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security handling immigration benefits.

For most of 2011, as well as 2009 and 2010, Gulick was one of the most sought-after guest speakers in almost every formal and informal function in the CNMI—be it a Saipan Chamber of Commerce membership meeting, a church assembly or a neighborhood meeting.

Gulick met with almost every entity in the CNMI affected by the federal takeover of local immigration to directly answer questions and share information about, among other things, the final worker rule, the application for a Commonwealth-only worker status, and parole for

See next page



Happy New Year!

Greetings from

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



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From the management and staff of



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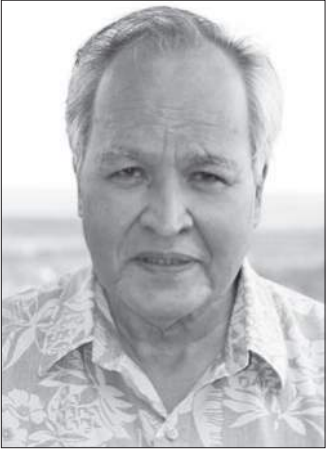
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eligible foreigners.

As observers put it, Gulick and his team from Honolulu, Guam, California and even Washington, D.C. have given enough consensus and consideration to the CNMI's unique immigration situation to help make the federalization transition as smooth as possible. There were lots of hiccups but Gulick and his USCIS team helped fight tooth and nail on behalf of the CNMI, they said. *(Haidee V. Eugenio)*



Tenorio

Reps. Froilan Tenorio and Diego Benavente

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) has no qualms speaking his mind out. He remains relentless in his push to legalize casino operations on Saipan even after the Senate killed his casino bill last year. His call to the Fitial administration to lay off non-essential government employees starting with Rota and Tinian has stirred a controversy that observers pointed to, again, his casino bill's defeat in the Senate where six of nine members are from Rota and Tinian.

And true to his word, he stepped down in January this year as House speaker during a tension-filled election for his replacement as speaker, a post that the minority thought it could win back.

With unexpected change of heart, at least two members made Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) speaker over then representative Diego Benavente who was nominated in absentia.

Six months later, Benavente resigned as a member of the House of Representatives for family reasons. But he remains



Benavente

visible on Capital Hill, speaking his mind out on a host of issues.

Rep Janet Maratita (Ind-Rota) replaced Benavente as the second-highest vote-getter from their precinct. This is the first time the House has three female members at the same time—Maratita, Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) and Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota). *(Haidee V. Eugenio)*

Rabby Syed

He's been called names and threatened several times but United Workers Movement-NMI president Rabby Syed has been a champion of foreign workers' rights and has been in the forefront of decades-long push for improved immigration status for long-term foreign workers in the CNMI.

Be it peaceful rallies, vigils,



Syed

public hearings, Occupy US-CIS, information drives, providing free taxi rides on certain holidays, donation drives to assist needy families or provide relief efforts to victims of disasters in the CNMI or outside, Syed is always there.

Syed visited Washington, D.C. in October this year to carry CNMI long-term foreign workers' message: "Grant us improved immigration status." He has made known his position on H.R. 1466, the final transitional worker rule, on pending labor bills, and all other issues affecting migrant workers and their families.

Amid the chaos, Syed has never lost sight of his goal on behalf of long-term foreign workers in the CNMI: A grant of improved status, specifically "green card, pathway to U.S. citizenship." But Syed is not alone in this fight. Along with other worker groups, Syed has been able to bring dozens and hundreds of foreign workers and their supporters together when needed. *(Haidee V. Eugenio)*



Sablan

Dr. Rita A. Sablan

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan made it among this year's newsmakers after she made significant strides in the Public School System, particularly in the renovation and modernization of all public schools and the distribution of thousands of laptops in secondary schools.

The commissioner is also at the center of a storm of accusations made by ousted Marianas High School principal Craig Garrison.

Sablan was also key on the historic conference call in July with U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan. The implementation of the highly qualified personnel mandate in CNMI public schools this year was also a credit to her strong leadership. *(Moneth Deposa)*



Igisomar

Sixto K. Igisomar

Sixto K. Igisomar wears two hats for equally controversial government agencies: the NMI Retirement Fund and the Department of Commerce.

Being the chairman of the pension agency's board of trustees, Igisomar gained both "support and criticism" from members of the community for his firm stand on the status of the pension fund, the problems behind its near collapse, and the

definitive actions needed for the Fund's recovery.

Igisomar, on numerous occasions, spoke against the ills that brought the pension plan to what it is today. Consistent and straight with his words, the chairman laid out to the public—especially to the retirees—how the problem arose and possible resolutions. On behalf of the board, he also received his fair share of blame from the

See NEWSMAKERS on Page 22

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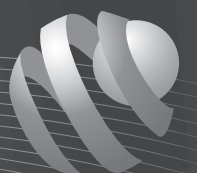
Congratulations to Pacifica Insurance Underwriters on your 38th anniversary.

We appreciate your success as our exclusive general agent in CNMI throughout the years. We are supremely confident of our solid business partnership and look forward to many more years together.

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NEWSMAKERS

From Page 21

Fund's detractors with regards to some drastic decisions the Fund made.

Igisomar never ceases to defend the Fund and its board, emphasizing the fiduciary duty they perform for retirees. A frequent guest at the Legislature, public hearings, and outreach meetings, Igisomar is also the familiar face behind the Fund's strong position on a number of harmful legislation pending in both the House and the Senate. The chairman, who is also the spokesperson for the board, was party to a number of cases involving the Fund.

Igisomar's profile in the public became even more pronounced when he assumed the top post at Commerce as secretary. He replaced Michael Ada, who, along with the Commerce Department, was in the spotlight after getting a controversial sole-source contract funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. (*Moneth Deposa*)

Juan N. Babauta

From serving as a \$1-dollar-a-year special adviser to the governor for federal regional council, Juan N. Babauta made it into the headlines this year after he was unanimously selected by the new Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board as its chief executive officer



Babauta

last Oct. 24.

Babauta, a former governor and political opponent of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, was also instrumental in the transfer of Fitial to the Republican Party along with his key Covenant Party supporters.

It can be recalled that just days after he was hired as special adviser, Babauta was elected the GOP president succeeding Juan I Tenorio who stepped down from the position. Babauta's election as the party's new head also sparked controversy among old members citing the unconstitutionality of the poll. This rift with some members was apparently "solved" later, but not when Fitial took over Babauta's position as GOP president on Nov. 7. (*Moneth Deposa*)

*Fashion
clicks*
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NMC info sessions on Jan. 4, 5

Those interested in furthering their education and advancing their professional careers are encouraged to attend free information sessions hosted by the Northern Marianas College on Jan. 4 and 5, 2012.

The first information session, which is open to all prospective students and community members, is on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2012, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in Room D-1 at the college's As Terlaje campus. The next information session, which is for government and private sector employees, is on Thursday, Jan. 5, 2012, from 5:30pm to 6:30 pm in Room D-1.

At both sessions, NMC faculty, staff, and students from the different degree and certificate programs at NMC, as well as Student Services representatives from counseling, financial aid, and admissions will be on hand to answer questions. Other current students will also be speaking about their experiences at NMC.

At the session for government and private sector employees, other important topics that will be presented include a new spring 2012 semester schedule, which includes more weekend and night classes in order to accommodate working individuals who are not able to attend classes during the work-week. In addition, financial aid options will also be discussed. For instance, the college offers a 50-percent discount on tuition for government employees who are ineligible to receive other scholarships.

Those who attend the free information session will also qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees waived for the upcoming spring 2012 semester. This represents a savings of about \$50. Registration for the spring 2012 semester will begin on Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2012. For more information about NMC's spring 2012 registration and semester, visit www.nmcnet.edu.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

For more information, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 Ext. 1537, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. (NMC)



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NMC spring 2012 registration begins Jan. 10

Registration for the Northern Marianas College's Spring 2012 semester will begin on Tuesday, Jan. 10 and run through Friday, Jan. 13, 2012. Students can register on the day designated for their PowerCampus ID number during this week. Late registration is from Jan. 17 to 20, 2012.

The college offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources manage-

ment, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

New students are required to take the English and Math placement tests before they register. After taking the placement tests, students can obtain the required slip from the English department and meet with their academic advisors. NMC academic advisors will help new students fill in registration forms and create class schedules. Students can then finish the registration process in NMC's Room D-1.

Application for admissions will still be accepted until the last day of late registration on Friday, Jan. 20, 2012, provided that both placement tests

have been taken. Students may register between 9am and 6pm Monday through Friday during registration week, and between 8am and 5pm during the week of late registration.

Ongoing students must clear any outstanding balances at the Finance Office, the NMC Library and/or Office of Admissions and Records before they can register for classes. To find out if any balances exist, students can visit the Office of Admissions and Records in Building N or call 234-5498 Ext. 1528/1537.

For additional information about the placement tests and registration for the Spring 2012 semester, visit the Office of Admissions and Records in Building N or call 234-5498 ext. 1528/1537, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

SPRING 2012 IMPORTANT DATES

■ Jan. 6: Student Orientation for International Students, 9:30am – 4pm, at the NMC Student Center (Building J)

■ Jan. 9: Early registration for 2012 graduation candidates and School of Education seniors

■ Jan. 10: Regular registration for students with PowerCampus ID #000000100-000010900

■ Jan. 11: Regular registration for students with PowerCampus ID #000010901-000014010

■ Jan. 12: Regular registration for students with PowerCampus ID #000014011-000015820

■ Jan. 12: Student orientation for new and returning students

■ Session 1: 9am – 12pm at the NMC Library (Building O)

■ Session 2: 4pm – 7pm at the NMC Library (Building O)

■ Jan. 13: Regular registration for students with PowerCampus ID #000015821 and higher/new students

■ Jan. 16: Holiday, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

■ Jan. 17: First day of spring classes

■ Jan. 17-20: Late registration week

ENGLISH PLACEMENT TEST SCHEDULE

■ Jan. 3: 9am - 4pm, English Lab (Building M)

■ Jan. 4: 9am - 6pm, English Lab (Building M)

■ Jan. 5: 9am - 6pm, English Lab (Building M)

■ Jan. 6: 9am - 2pm, English Lab (Building M)

■ Jan. 9: 9am - 4pm, English Lab (Building M)

■ Jan. 10: 9am - 6pm, English Lab (Building M)

■ Jan. 11: 9am - 6pm, English Lab (Building M)

■ Jan. 12: 9am - 4pm, English Lab (Building M)

■ Jan. 13: 9am - 2pm, English Lab (Building M)

MATH PLACEMENT TEST SCHEDULE

■ Jan. 3: 10am - 12pm, Room A-9

■ Jan. 5: 10am - 12pm, Room A-9
5pm - 7pm, Room A-9

■ Jan. 10: 10am - 12pm, Room A-9

■ Jan. 12: 10am - 12pm, Room A-9
5pm - 7pm, Room A-9

Premature Rupture of Membranes (PROM) During Pregnancy

What is it?

The amniotic sac, or membranes, contains the amniotic fluid and baby. This sac usually breaks during the early stages of labor and is often called 'breaking the water.'

Sometimes the sac breaks early- hours or days before contractions begin. This is called premature rupture of membranes, or PROM. If it happens before 37 weeks of pregnancy it is called preterm premature rupture of membranes, or PPRM.

How common is it?

Luckily, neither is that common. PROM occurs in less than 15% of pregnancies. PPRM occurs in less than 3% of pregnancies.

Is it serious?

Yes. PPRM accounts for about 34% of all premature births. Other concerns are increased risk of infection in you and your baby and cord prolapse, meaning the cord comes out in front of the baby's head.

How do you know if you have it?

Leaking or gushing of fluid is the only symptom. **If you think your water broke, see your health care provider.**

What you can do?

- Get regular prenatal care
- Eat healthy
- Avoid smoking

For more information or to schedule an appointment with a provider call:
CHC Women's Clinic **234-8950** ext: **3503**
Tinian Health Center **433-9263**
Rota Health Center **532-9461**



Brought to you by CNMI Commonwealth Health Corporation, Maternal-Child Health and Family Planning Programs
Information adapted from WebMD.com

Hours to sell alcohol extended

The hours to sell and serve alcoholic beverages are being extended until 4am on Dec. 31, 2011, New Year's Eve, according to a notice issued yesterday by the Department of Commerce.

These extended hours are only

for the evening of Saturday, Dec. 31, 2011, until 4am on Sunday, Jan. 1, 2012. This authorization does not allow for further expansion of the extended hours.

"Any abuse of this extension will not be tolerated. This

authorization only applies to Class-3 On-Sale licensees," the statement adds.

Contact the Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division hotline at 483-1821 to report any violation of the extended hours of sale. (*Office of the Governor*)

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Inos blasts absence of top healthcare corp. officials

» Talks about 'sacrifices, challenges' in 2011 and what's ahead in 2012



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, seated-center, is flanked by 2011 Miss Liberation Day Queen Joni Castro, Public Health Services director Roxanne Diaz and other health care personnel during yesterday morning's signing of a proclamation declaring January 2012 Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. Cervical cancer generally develops slowly and in many cases can be prevented through screening and treatment of pre-cancerous conditions.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos blasted yesterday top Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. officials for their absence in at least three health-related proclamation signings, questioning their sincerity and support for health programs.

In a rather unusual address to a crowd gathered in the governor's conference room, Inos said if the governor or the lieutenant governor finds the time to sign proclamations related to health, so should top health officials.

Roxanne Diaz, Public Health Services director at CHC, defended her superiors by saying that they, especially chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta, were working on the corporation budget. She also said CHC is at risk of not having a timely payroll.

"I'm here on their behalf," said Diaz, adding that she regrets CHC top officials' absence and understands Inos' concerns.

Inos, in response, said he and the governor also deal with finances and budget every day and still make time for scheduled proclamation signings.

Diaz was the only CHC official present during yesterday morning's signing of a proclamation declaring January 2012

Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. The rest were employees, along with other administration officials and guests such as 2011 Miss Liberation Day Queen Joni Castro.

Babauta, in a brief phone interview, said he was at the Legislature presenting the corporation's budget separately; first at the Senate then at the House. That was prior to the Legislature's post-Christmas lunch on Capital Hill.

"The director of Public Health was there to represent us. I was at the Legislature presenting our budget," Babauta told *Saipan Tribune*.

The proclamation signing was set for 9:30am but didn't start until a little after 10am.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) confirmed that Babauta met with him to present the corporation's budget, and financial requests that include a \$10 million revolving fund. He said the meeting was around 11am.

Inos, in an interview after the proclamation signing, reiterated his concerns about the absence of top CHC officials. He said he and the governor also deal with the same issues that corporation officials deal with.

"I don't know what goes down there...I'm sure they meet every day. This is probably the third proclamation [signing]

that we had concerning health care. Like I said, they were conspicuously absent," Inos told reporters.

In his proclamation, Inos urged all women in the CNMI to discuss a preventive and screening program with their healthcare provider and become aware that they are at risk of getting cervical cancer.

CHC said "too many women in the CNMI have died from cervical cancer." These were preventable deaths, it added.

Cervical cancer can be prevented through screening and treatment of pre-cancerous conditions. It can also be prevented by the HPV vaccine.

'Sacrifices, challenges'

Inos said the year was full of challenges and sacrifices. He said the fact that many employ-

ees are getting paid only 64 hours instead of 80 hours bi-weekly was "sacrifice" enough not only for themselves but for their families as well as the fiscal year 2012 budget stood only at \$102 million from \$122 million.

The challenges were not confined to government employees. Even the private sector has cut work hours and reduced the number of their employees.

"It was a challenge and we hope that we will be over

that and we see some positive signs. More flights coming in, increased tourism activity, we hear about potential investments in the northern side of the island. Those are good signs. At least it tells you that people are still interested in investing," he told reporters.

He said they will have a 2013 budget call next week.



*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!*

As the New Year draws...

*may it open up for the more opportunities,
Lead YOU onto the path of continued
success, happiness & prosperity.*

*Have a safe and memorable holiday
season! God bless the people of Precinct
2 and the Commonwealth.*

*From Representative Rafael S. Demapan, Jr. & family
& Staff*

Remember the laughter, the joy, the hard work, and the tears. And as you reflect on the past years, also think of the new one to come because most importantly, this is a time of new beginnings and the celebration of life.

Wishing you and your family a blessed and prosperous

Happy New Year!

From the Office of the Speaker, Eli D. Cabrera & Staff

Healthcare corporation bylaws adopted

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board has adopted the organization's bylaws to comply with the requirements of Medicare, outlining how it will operate the Commonwealth Health Center and maintain its compliance with federal standards.

Acting board chair Pedro Dela Cruz and chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta described the newly approved bylaws as an important requirement in sending reimbursement

claims to the federal agency.

Medicare reimbursements to CHC range between \$8 million to \$10 million every year.

Following the bylaws' adoption is the submission of reimbursement claims to Medicare, Dela Cruz said.

Babauta earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that the corporation's takeover has no impact on the situation with Medicare so long the hospital complies with all the standards and requirements. (Moneth G. Deposa)

BRUCE L. MAILMAN, #F0153
MAILMAN & KARA, LLC
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Saipan, MP 96950-8900
Telephone: 233-0081
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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, INC.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, INC.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0295
Plaintiff,	
-v-	COMPLAINT
FRANCISCO E. SANTOS,	
Defendant.	

- Jurisdiction of this matter is vested in this Honorable Court by virtue of Commonwealth Const. Art. 4, Sec. 2, and by virtue of the provisions of Section 3202 of the Commonwealth Judicial Reorganization Act of 1989.
- Plaintiff is Wells Fargo Financial, Inc., a corporation licensed to transact the business of financing within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
- Defendant Francisco E. Santos is a United States citizen and a person of Northern Marianas descent residing at Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.
- On or about August 9, 2007 defendant executed a Promissory Note ("the Note") in favor of plaintiff in the amount of \$35,873.82, plus interest at 8.63% per annum. A true and correct copy of the Note is attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated by this reference.
- The Note was secured by a Real Property Mortgage ("the Mortgage"), executed by defendant on August 9, 2007, and recorded on the same day as file no. 07-1755 at the office of the Commonwealth Recorder, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit B and incorporated by this reference. The Mortgage secured repayment of the Note and pledged to Plaintiff the following real property located at Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, known as Lot 373-3-5-1, which is more particularly described in the Mortgage as:
LOT 373-3-5-1 (FORMERLY PART OF LOT 373-3-5, WHICH WAS PART OF LOT 373-3, WHICH WAS PART OF LOT 373, TD 151), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2059/06, the original of which was recorded on June 9, 2006 as Document No. 06-1424 at the office of the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.
- Defendant is in default on the Note, in that he has not made all the payments provided for therein to be made.
- On or about August 18, 2011, plaintiff, through counsel, dispatched notice of default of the note to Mr. Santos by US Postal Service certified mail, return receipt requested. The notice of default was in both the English and Chamorro languages. A true and correct copy of the notice of default in both languages, with the return receipt dated September 20, 2011, are attached hereto collectively as Exhibit C and incorporated by this reference.
- Pursuant to the terms of the Note and the provisions of 2 CMC §4534(d), the entire outstanding principal balance of the loan is now due and owing by defendant to plaintiff, together with interest, as follows:

Outstanding principal balance: \$ 31,310.63
Amount due for interest through 10/31/2011: \$ 1,733.85
Daily accruing interest from and after 11/1/2011: \$ 7.51

Daily accruing interest is calculated by the formula (\$33,244.48 x 8.63%)/365.
- Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Note and the Mortgage, defendant is additionally obligated to plaintiff for reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred in collection of the Note and prosecution of the herein complaint, in amounts as yet undetermined but still accruing.
- Notwithstanding demand, Mr. Santos has failed, refused and neglected, and still fails, refuses and neglects to pay the amounts due to plaintiff.

- PRAYER FOR RELIEF**
- WHEREFORE, plaintiff prays for judgment against defendant, as follows:
- Against defendant Francisco E. Santos, the principal sum of \$31,310.63; plus accrued interest at the rate of 8.63% per annum to October 31, 2011 in the amount of \$1,733.85; plus accrued interest thereon at the rate of 8.63% per annum from and after November 1, 2011, in the amount of \$7.51 per day;
 - Against defendant Francisco E. Santos, for reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit, and for other costs allowed pursuant to the terms of the Note and the Mortgage;
 - Against defendant Francisco E. Santos, for interest on the total of all amounts included in the judgment sought by this complaint, at the maximum rate provided by law from the date of judgment;
 - Against defendant Francisco E. Santos, ordering that if the judgment is not paid in full within three months after its date, Lot 373-3-5-1 shall be sold in accordance with law and the proceeds of said sale, after deducting expenses thereof, shall be applied to payment of the balance due upon judgment, and for reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit, and other costs allowed by the Note and the Mortgage; and
 - For such other and further relief as the Court deems proper.

DATED, this 31ST day of October, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

MAILMAN & KARA, LLC
/s/ BRUCE L. MAILMAN, F0153
Attorney for Plaintiff
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, INC.

Yearend Features

Top business story in 2011: Europe financial crisis

NEW YORK (AP)—Europe took the financial world on a stomach-churning ride in 2011. The rising threat of default by heavily indebted European countries spread fear across financial markets and weighed on economies worldwide. As the year came to a close, banks and investors nervously watched Europe's political and financial leaders scramble to prevent the 17-nation euro-zone from breaking apart. Several of the other biggest business stories of the year highlighted the global economy's linkages: A British phone-hacking scandal shook the foundations of Rupert Murdoch's U.S.-based media empire; a nuclear disaster in Japan stymied auto plants in the U.S. and beyond; and the price of gasoline surged because of unrest in the Middle East and growing demand in Asia and Latin America.

In the U.S., political squabbling led to the first credit downgrade for government debt, the economy suffered its fourth straight disappointing year and Apple founder Steve Jobs died. The European financial crisis was chosen as the top business story of the year by business editors at The Associated Press. The sluggish U.S. economy came in second, followed by the death of Jobs.

1. EUROPEAN FINANCIAL CRISIS. The government-debt crunch rattled Europe's financial system and weighed on the global economy. Portugal became the third European country, after Greece and Ireland the year before, to require a bailout as its borrowing costs soared. And investors grew worried that countries with much larger debts, such as Spain and Italy, would also need help. Financial markets were vola-

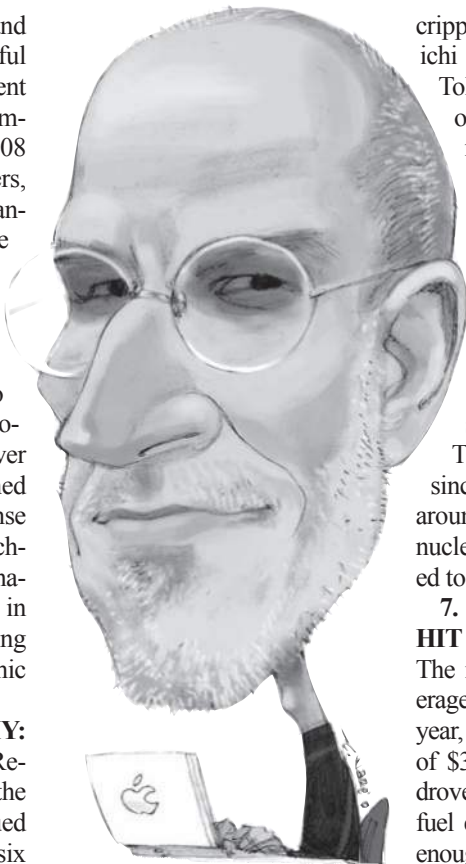
tile all year as hopes rose and then were dashed that forceful steps would be taken to prevent the financial crisis from becoming Europe's version of the 2008 collapse of Lehman Brothers, which triggered a global financial panic and deepened the Great Recession.

Banks worried that they or their partners wouldn't be able to cover losses if governments defaulted, so they cut back on lending. European governments, facing ever higher borrowing costs, reined in spending—a policy response that is expected to stunt much-needed economic growth. Analysts estimate the slowdown in Europe, America's No. 1 trading partner, will cut U.S. economic growth next year.

2. BAD U.S. ECONOMY: YEAR FOUR. The Great Recession may have ended, but the economic recovery continued to disappoint. For the first six months of the year, the economy grew at an annual rate of just 0.9 percent. Growth improved to a 2 percent rate in the third quarter and a 3 percent growth rate is forecast for the fourth quarter.

Still, 2 1/2 years after economists say the recession ended, 25 million people remain unemployed or unable to find full-time work. The unemployment rate fell from 9 percent in October to 8.6 percent in November, providing a hopeful sign. Yet the housing market remained burdened by foreclosures and falling prices in many metropolitan areas. How to fix the economy became the top campaign issue for Republican presidential contenders.

3. STEVE JOBS DIES: The college dropout who helped popularize the personal computer and created the iPod, iPhone and iPad, died on October 5. That was two months after Apple Inc., which Jobs started in a Silicon Valley garage in 1976, briefly surpassed Exxon Mobil Corp. as the most valuable publicly traded company in the world.



Jobs cultivated a countercultural sensibility and a minimalist design ethic. He rolled out one sensational product after another, even during the recession and as his health was failing. He first helped change computers from a geeky hobbyist's obsession to a necessity of modern life. In recent years, he upended the music business with the iPod and iTunes, transformed the smart phone market with the iPhone and created the tablet market with the iPad.

4. THE U.S. CREDIT DOWNGRADE: The inability of political leaders to come up with a long-term plan to reduce the federal budget deficit led the credit rating agency Standard & Poor's to take away Uncle Sam's sterling AAA credit rating for the first time. The political bickering enraged voters, spooked investors and led to the lowest consumer confidence level of the year. But the nation's long-term borrowing costs fell after the crisis. The reason: U.S. debt still looks safer to investors than almost everything else, especially European debt.

5. RUPERT MURDOCH AND THE HACKING SCANDAL: The man whose worldwide media empire thrives on covering scandal became the center of a dramatic one. A British tabloid newspaper owned by Murdoch's News Corp., which also owns Fox News and The Wall Street Journal, hacked the phone of a murdered schoolgirl. Murdoch was not charged with a crime, but an investigation by British authorities raised questions about Murdoch's ability to run his worldwide media empire. News Corp. fired several executives and closed the newspaper at the center of the scandal, the News of the World.

6. JAPANEARTHQUAKE: An earthquake and tsunami that

crippled the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear reactor, owned by Tokyo Electric Power Co., cut off supplies of crucial Japanese parts and idled factories thousands of miles away. Auto companies, especially Toyota and Honda, were hit hardest. Inventory of certain models, especially hybrids, fell short at dealerships, reducing sales and sending retail prices higher. The worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl led countries around the world to reconsider nuclear power. Germany decided to abandon nuclear by 2022.

7. GASOLINE PRICES HIT ANNUAL RECORD: The retail price of gasoline averaged \$3.53 per gallon for the year, eclipsing the 2008 record of \$3.24 per gallon. Americans drove less and switched to more fuel efficient cars, but it wasn't enough to offset the higher prices. A bigger percentage of household income went into the gas tank in 2011 than any year since 1981. Economists say the high prices shaved half a percentage point off U.S. economic growth.

8. SOCIAL MEDIA IPOs TAKE OFF: Shares of the business social networking site LinkedIn more than doubled when it went public in May, recalling the froth of the dot-com boom. LinkedIn was followed by large IPOs from online radio company Pandora Media, online discount site Groupon and social gaming site Zynga. But the market is treacherous: shares of Pandora, Groupon and Zynga all traded below their offering prices soon after they were listed. Market anticipation is high for a Facebook IPO in 2012.

9. OCCUPY WALL STREET: On Sept. 17, several hundred protesters gathered at a small plaza about a block from the New York Stock Exchange. They slept in tents, ate donated meals and protested income inequality and the influence of money in politics. The movement inspired protesters around the world who camped in city centers and business hubs to complain about unemployment, CEO pay and a decline in upward social mobility.

10. THE DOWNFALL OF MF GLOBAL AND JON CORZINE: The former governor, senator and co-chairman of Goldman Sachs lost control of a small brokerage firm he agreed to run in 2010. Saddled with huge debt and risky bets on European bonds, MF Global was forced to file for bankruptcy protection on Halloween after trading partners and investors got spooked. It was soon discovered that \$1.2 billion in customer money was missing. Corzine told Congress he had no idea where the money went.

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a MPLT Trustees Special Meeting to be held on **Tuesday, January 3, 2012** beginning at 9:30am at MPLT Conference Room, 1313 Anatahan Drive, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

The following agenda is hereby established:

I

PRELIMINARIES

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda

II

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

III

CONSULTANT'S REPORTS

IV

LEGAL COUNSEL – report and review (Executive Session)

1. HB - 17-258
2. SLI - 17-14

V

OLD BUSINESS

VI

COMMUNICATIONS

VII

NEW BUSINESS

VIII

MISCELLANEOUS

IX

ADJOURNMENT

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Alvaro A. Santos
Chairman, MPLT Trustees

GENERAL PUBLIC

Concerning Lot # 034L 134 containing an area of 257 square meters more or less as shown on and described in subdivision of Lot # 034L 63 check no. 034L 21 Record File # 97-1299 belonging to Carlos S. B. Feger.

Property Lot # 034L 134 is not to be occupied, rented, leased, or sold without written permission from Mr. Carlos S. B. Feger.

At gas pump, 2011 was the year of the big squeeze

NEW YORK (AP)—It’s been 30 years since gasoline took such a big bite out of the family budget.

When the gifts from Grandma are unloaded and holiday travel is over, the typical American household will have spent \$4,155 filling up this year, a record. That is 8.4 percent of what the median family takes in, the highest share since 1981.

Gas averaged more than \$3.50 a gallon this year, another unfortunate record. And next year isn’t likely to bring relief.

In the past, high gas prices in the United States have gone hand-in-hand with economic good times, making them less damaging to family finances. Now prices are high despite slow economic growth and weak demand.

That’s because demand for crude oil is rising globally, especially in the developing nations of Asia and Latin America. But it puts the squeeze on the U.S., where unemployment is high and many people who have jobs aren’t getting raises.

The trap has caught Michael Reed of Charlotte, N.C. He hasn’t been able to find work since he lost his computer-support job in 2009. Now high gas prices are claiming more of what he has left. He and his wife won’t exchange gifts this Christmas. “I try to drive as little as possible so it doesn’t take such a chunk out of my wallet,” he says.

In 1981, when the economy was sliding into recession and oil prices were high because of

Middle East turmoil, gas ate up 8.8 percent of the typical family budget, says Fred Rozell of the Oil Price Information Service.

Over the past decade, gas has taken up 5.7 percent of the family budget. If families had spent only 5.7 percent this year, they would have saved \$1,300.

For this year, gas should average \$3.53 per gallon. That’s 76 cents more than last year. It’s 29 cents per gallon more than 2008, when gas last set an annual record, \$3.24. That year, the price of oil hit a record in the summer but collapsed when the financial crisis struck in the fall.

Besides leaving families less money to eat out and go to the movies, high gas prices take a disproportionate toll on consumer confidence. People are more aware of small changes in gas prices because they drive past the signs all the time.

And a buck spent on gas has less bang in the economy than, say, a dollar spent at a restaurant. The U.S. is an oil-importing country, so many of the dollars spent on gas ultimately leave the country instead of being invested here in new ventures and jobs.

James Hamilton, an economics professor at the University of California, San Diego, who studies energy prices, estimates that high gasoline prices reduced economic growth by about 0.5 percent for the year—a substantial hit for an economy only growing at an annual rate of

about 2 percent. Still, it could be worse. The U.S. economy is much more fuel-efficient than it was during the oil spikes of the late 1970s and early 1980s. In 1980, for every \$1,000 of economic output, 1.07 barrels of oil were consumed. By 2010, it took half that—0.53 barrels, says Judith Dwarkin, chief energy economist at ITG Investment Research.



Today, the U.S. uses almost no oil to generate electricity. The percentage of households using heating oil has fallen. And vehicles are less thirsty than ever—20 percent more fuel-efficient than they were in 1980.

Also, the low price of natural gas has kept heating and electricity costs down for the same households spending more on gas.

Relief from high gas prices is nowhere in sight, though. Ed Morse, head of commodities research at Citibank, expects oil to average \$100 per barrel next year, which would eclipse 2011’s average of about \$95 per barrel.

Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst at OPIS, expects gasoline prices to approach \$4 per gallon again next spring.

Drivers are keeping gas guzzlers in the driveway, combining trips and buying more efficient cars. Compared with the year before, American gas consumption has been down every week for more than nine months, according to MasterCard SpendingPulse, a spending survey.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-12-005

PROCUREMENT & INSTALLATION OF LED STREET LIGHTS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified and experienced firms for the procurement and installation of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) Street Lights on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA).

The Bid Packet may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card, in the amount of \$100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 4, 2012 at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-IFB-12-005, Procurement and Installation of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) Street Lights” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 19, 2012 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety firm holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety firm must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety firm must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor’s Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 9, 2012 to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Alfredo Palattao, Power Division Engineer via email alfred.palattao@cucgov.org and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Administrative Assistant, Procurement & Supply via email mika.muna@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana

Ofisinan I Gubietno

Dipåtamenton I Tano’ Pubpliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 047 L 02, containing an area of approximately 49,000 square meters, more or less, situated in Naftan, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Eco Island Development, LLC. The Members of the Limited Liability Company are Mr. Herman P. Sablan and Ms. Shen Yen.

iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Herman P. Sablan.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and managing a solar photovoltaic power plant.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Naftan, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before January 5, 2012 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT MAPROPONIN INEKSTENDIN INATKILON TANU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(b) gi Lain Pubpliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tānu' Pubpliku guini ha nā'i nutisia ni intension-ña para u mana'ma'atmila pumalu na tānu' pupbliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha. Maseha hāyi na pattida siha gi halum i pupbliku henerāt siña ha na'hālum i imfotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñun kinentra siha gi tinahguin propositu siha ni para i atkilon tānu' pupbliku. Sigi mās mo'na mapribeniyi ginin i Lain Pubpliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesin imfotmasion ni madimānda ni debi na u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tānu' pupbliku ha diskribi kumu Lot No. Lot No. 047 L 02, ni kinonsisti āria kāsi guaha 49,000 square meters, mās pat menus, ni gaigi giya Naftan, Saipan. I kopian i lugāt gaigi gi pumalu na gumuaha gi Dipattamentun Tānu' Pubpliku siha ni para i rikunosimientu.

ii. I manatikikila i Eco Island Development, LCC. I miembru siha gi Liability Company si Siñot Herman P. Sablan yan si Siñora Shen Yen.

iii. I maproponi na atkilon manigosiu gi as Siñot Herman P. Sablan.

iv. I manatikikila debi na u kuntuñuha umusa i lugāt siha uniku para i hinangai adilāntu yan minanehan solar photovoltaic power plant.

I teman i maproponi na kuntrātan atkilon sa’ 25 āñus, yan option para u ma’ekstendi i atkilon gi ta’lu 15 āñus.

I maproponi na āpas atkilon gi sakkan gi durāntin i tema sigun gi percentage gi appraised fair market value gi propiedāt.

v. Kopian i manmaproponi na kontrātan atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tānu' Pubpliku siha, gaigi gi sigundu bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet 1st bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pubpliku siha tāya' na ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para sinuhetun atkilon tanu' pupbliku siha giya Naftan, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritāriun i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pubpliku siha debi na u aksepta i tinigi' i imfotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñun kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat āntis di Ineru (January) 5, 2012 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tānu' Pubpliku siha ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106(b) mellól Alléghul Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipel, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka remuschál emwal rebwe isisilong yaar mángemáng , data awewee, me angingi reel pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap. Sengi Alléghul Toulap ye 15-2, ebwal ayoora, lamal awewee kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáari Lot No. 047 L 02 ebwe yoor faaigh me tiwoow saangaras lapal (49,000 square meters) elapeló me ngäre eghús, elo Naftan, Seipel. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngäre óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilón nge Eco Islands Development, LLC. Membrol Limited Liability Company yeel nge Mr. Herman P. Sablan me Ms. Shen Yen.

iii. Schóól aweweey akkilon yel nge Mr. Herman P. Sablan.

iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yááyá falúw yeel rel ebwe ayoora me mwóghutagheli solar photovoltaic power plant.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráagh (25 years). Emmwel rebwe bwal sóóbwey ngáli seigh me limoow ráagh (15 years).

Pomwol méél akkilon lól ráagh kka re akkiliki nge ebwe mwiril sángi percentage il yaal appraised fair market value il falúw.

Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi merel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Tuturam, Seipél; Songsong village, Luuta; me ngäre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

v. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Naftan, Seipél.

vi. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughi ischil mángemáng, aingingil merel amweyút mmwal Eneero (January) 5, 2012 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyól.

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Science, Fiction • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Director Chris Gorak (Right at Your Door) teams with producer Timur Bekmambetov for this tense apocalyptic thriller centering on the fight for survival waged by five youths who find themselves stranded in Moscow during an alien invasion. As the invisible extraterrestrials absorb all of Earth's energy and life forms, finding a means of escaping the unstoppable attackers becomes a seemingly impossible task. Emile Hirsch, Olivia Thirlby, and Max Minghella star.



We Bought A Zoo

Friday thru Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:30
Monday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Tuesday thru Thursday	4:10	7:10		

Matt Damon, Scarlett Johansson
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG

Synopsis

A widower (Matt Damon) purchases a zoo in order to bring his family back together in this Twentieth Century Fox adaptation of Benjamin Mee's autobiographical memoir. Cameron Crowe (Almost Famous) writes and directs based on a script by Aline Brosh McKenna.



The Adventure of Tintin

Friday thru Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:50
Monday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Tuesday thru Thursday	4:30	7:30		

Jamie Bell, Andy Serkis
Adventure • Rated PG



Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol

Friday thru Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:55
Monday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Tuesday thru Thursday	4:15	7:15		

Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner
Spy film, Action • Rated PG 13



The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo

Friday thru Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Monday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Tuesday thru Thursday	4:00	7:00		

Daniel Craig, Rooney Mara
Thriller • Rated R



Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked

Friday thru Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:35
Monday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Tuesday thru Thursday	4:20	7:20		

Jason Lee
Children's/family • Rated G



Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows

Friday thru Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:45
Monday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Tuesday thru Thursday	4:05	7:05		

Robert Downey, Jr. Jude Law
Action, Mystery • Rated PG 13

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Life & Style

The Top 10 (or 11) TV shows of 2011

By CHUCK BARNEY
CONTRA COSTA TIMES

OK, so maybe that "Charlie's Angels" remake wasn't such a great idea. Same goes for "The Playboy Club."

On the other hand, there was plenty of stellar television to celebrate in 2011—so much, in fact, that we had a tough time trying to settle on just 10 standout shows. But someone had to do it:

1. **"GAME OF THRONES"** (HBO)—If TV has a distinct advantage over the cineplex,

it's the ability to go long and tell sprawling, complex stories. Still, we had our doubts that anyone could truly get their arms around George R.R. Martin's massively epic medieval fantasy.

"Game" on. In Season 1, the producers and writers did right by the so-called "American Tolkien," meeting or exceeding most fan expectations via this handsomely crafted tale of knights and kings, sex and swordplay. The acting and writing were superb, the visual effects marvelous.

The series also honored Martin's no-one-is-safe credo by bringing brutal ends to several key figures (We miss you, Ned!). Now that heads have rolled and our jaws have dropped, we can only hope that enough of our favorites stick around long enough to keep us interested.

2. **"HOMELAND"** (Showtime)—With its intensely gripping game of cat-and-mouse, this psychological thriller found ways to keep us constantly guessing: Is Sgt. Nicholas Brody (Damian Lewis), who spent eight years in captivity, a war hero? Or is he, as high-strung CIA outcast Carrie Mathison (Claire Danes) suspects, a dangerous terrorist?

Both Danes and Lewis are superb, playing off one another with smooth conviction. And the supporting cast—with Mandy Patinkin and gorgeous Morena Baccarin—isn't shabby, either. Eat your heart out, Jack Bauer: "Homeland" is like "24," only with less gunplay and more brain power.

3. **"BREAKING BAD"** (AMC)—As Season 4 dawned, we wondered what Walter White (Bryan Cranston) and this addictive drama about ill-fated meth dealers could possibly cook up next.

The answer came in the form of a spellbinding journey to the dark side—and an explosive finale that saw Walter take down monstrous villain Gus Fring (Giancarlo Esposito) with a shocking scheme that, well, pretty much blew us away. Now that Walter has fully embraced his inner evil, only 16 episodes remain. We can't wait.

4. **"MODERN FAMILY"/"THE MIDDLE"** (ABC)—OK, perhaps it's cheating to plop two shows into one slot, but these hysterical Wednesday comedies make for great companion pieces.

The more acclaimed "Modern Family" is a two-time Emmy champ that continues to top all sitcoms when it comes to blending boisterous humor with warm heart. But the underappreciated "Middle," with its kooky blue-collar clan and more conventional approach, often produces as many, if not more, laughs. Time to give the Heck family some love.

5. **"FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS"** (DirecTV/ NBC)—Over the years, we have been in awe of many shows, but we've been madly in love

with a precious few. Put this big-hearted small-town drama at the top of that list.

The late, great "Lights" forged a powerful emotional bond with its loyal devotees because it gave us characters who felt so real and relatable it sometimes hurt. But there were also plenty of uplifting triumphs—and not just on the football field. When the end came, we were rewarded with a richly satisfying series finale that provided closure and a wealth of incredible memories. TV shows come and go. Like Texas, this one is forever.

6. **"AMERICAN HORROR STORY"** (FX)—Creators Ryan Murphy and Brad Falchuk ("Glee"; "Nip/Tuck") continue to get their freak on with this lurid "psychosexual thriller" about a troubled family (including Connie Britton and Dylan McDermott) that moves into a haunted house and loses their minds as all hell breaks out.

Crammed with everything from evil spirits and shivery jolts to a kinky maid and a ghostly rapist in a rubber suit, "Horror Story" goes so far over the top that it's occasionally as kooky as it is creepy. But while some viewers may have fled in terror (or disgust), we just can't take our eyes off it.

7. **"DOWNTON ABBEY"** (PBS)—We're not going to lie: Lavish costume dramas often make our eyes glaze over. But this well-acted, novelistic tale of an embattled family of British nobles and their colorful servants turned out to be jolly good fun.

That's because a brilliant script by Julian Fellowes managed to examine trenchant themes of ambition, power and domestic politics while still providing lots of soapy twists and turns. Oh, and it didn't hurt that there were touches of wry humor, mainly provided by sneering scene-stealer Maggie Smith.

8. **"THE GOOD WIFE"** (CBS)—In Season 3 of this legal procedural, Alicia Florrick (Juliana Margulies) decided to dump her adulterous husband and be a little more naughty than nice. The ensuing affair with her boss (Josh Charles) has steamed up our screens and added spice to an already excellent series.

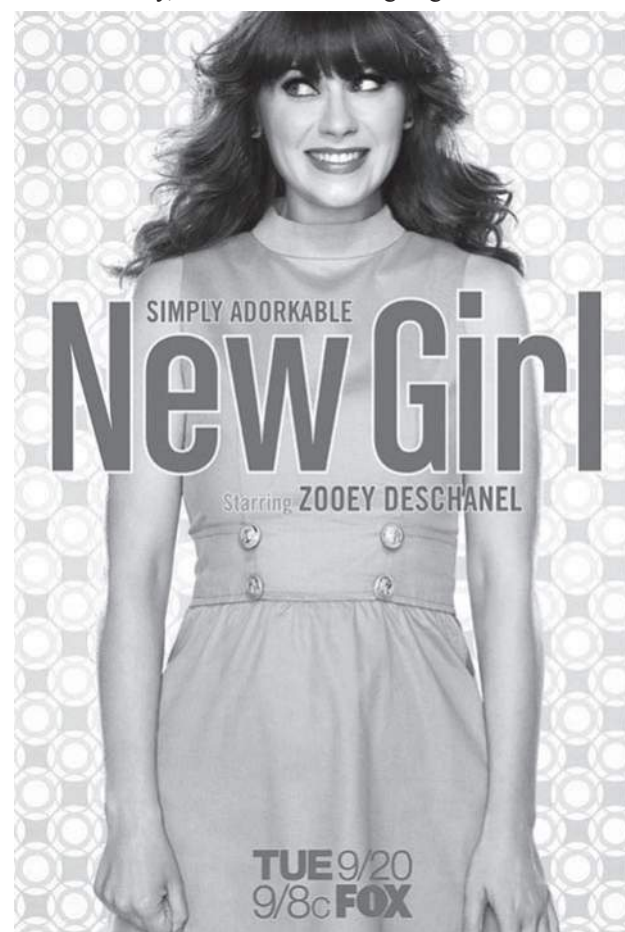
Commendably, the writers haven't let Alicia off the hook. They've deftly examined how this relationship brings complications not only for her and Will, but for her family and the firm. Meanwhile, they also continue to present prime time's most compelling court cases.

9. **"JUSTIFIED"** (FX)—How do you make an already great crime series, with its oh-so-cool leading man (Timothy Olyphant), even more intriguing? Give him an offbeat nemesis and let the battle of wits begin.

Enter Margo Martindale, who captured an Emmy for her mesmerizing portrayal of Kentucky mountain mama "Mags" Bennett. Mags, the brains behind a drug-dealing family, could turn on the charm, but she could also be cold, calculating and ruthless. The result was a tension-filled season that proved to be as potent as her apple-pie moonshine.

10. **"NEW GIRL"** (FOX)—Indie idol Zooey Deschanel can have a polarizing effect on an audience. You either find her doe-eyed geekiness to be totally adorable or totally annoying.

We cast our vote for adorable. As the dorky, clumsy, perky, quirky Jess, she travels to the beat of her own theme song—and rocks our world in the process. But she wouldn't be nearly as charming (or hilarious) without the aid of her main men (Max Greenfield, Jake Johnson, Lamorne Morris) or creator Liz Meriwether's deft feel for offbeat, character-based humor.



Forrest Gump, Hannibal Lecter join film registry

WASHINGTON (AP)—Bambi, Forrest Gump and Hannibal Lecter have at least one thing in common: Their cinematic adventures were chosen by the Library of Congress to be preserved in the world's largest archive of film, TV and sound recordings.

"The Silence of the Lambs" (1991), a harrowing psychological thriller about the cannibalistic serial killer Lecter, and "Forrest Gump" (1994), starring Tom Hanks as the guileless hero who thinks "life is like a box of chocolates," were critical and commercial successes that won the Academy Award for Best Picture. The animated Disney classic "Bambi" is among the most beloved movies ever made.

A majority of the 25 titles chosen this year for inclusion in the National Film Registry are lesser-known—including silent films, documentaries, avant-garde cinema and even home movies. The Library of Congress announced the selections Tuesday.

The registry began in 1989 under an act of Congress and now includes 575 films. Its aim is not to identify the best movies ever made but to preserve films with artistic, cultural or historical significance. Previous titles chosen range from "The Birth of a Nation" to "National Lampoon's Animal House."

"Forrest Gump" has its critical detractors but was praised for its technical achievements, including the seamless incorporation of the title character into



This undated black-and-white handout photo provided by Paramount and the Library of Congress shows Tom Hanks staring as Forrest Gump. AP

historical footage.

More than 2,200 films were nominated for the registry this year. The National Film Preservation Board pares them down before Librarian of Congress James H. Billington makes the final selections.

"Each year, we do try to pick one of the titles that the public nominated the most, and 'Forrest Gump' was way up there on that list," said Stephen Leggett, program coordinator for the National Film Preservation Board. "Everything on the list is subject to dissenting opinion."

Staffers at the Library of Congress Packard Campus for Audio

Visual Conservation in Culpeper, Va., work to ensure that each title is preserved for future generations, packing away original negatives or unreleased prints into the facility's massive vault and collaborating with other preservationists, movie studios and independent filmmakers.

"These films are selected because of their enduring significance to American culture," Billington said in a statement. "Our film heritage must be protected because these cinematic treasures document our history and culture and reflect our hopes and dreams."

Leggett said he was pleased

by the inclusion of "The Negro Soldier," a 1944 documentary produced by Frank Capra that was groundbreaking for its realistic and positive depiction of African-Americans. It became mandatory viewing for soldiers entering the army in the latter stages of the war and was shown in commercial theaters.

"It was kind of ironic because the official Army policy at the time was still segregation. You had a film which was implicitly if not explicitly promoting integration," he said.

Films must be at least 10 years old to be considered for the registry.

Desperate daughter wants to break free of needy mom

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 25-year-old woman with no future. I am the youngest of three daughters. My parents are divorced and my sisters are both married. Mom has no income of her own, so it's mainly me.

I have come to realize that I'll never be able to have an apartment of my own or fully live my life because of her. She's controlling and always finds a way to make me feel guilty about going out or enjoying myself. I have never had a relationship because she has always found a way of sabotaging any relationship I'm in.

I think she's bipolar, but she doesn't believe in medication or that it's even real. I feel as if I'm being forced to take care of her, and when I finally have a chance to have a real life, it will be too late.

I have discussed this with my sisters, but they haven't helped. I'm very depressed and don't know what to do. If I bring this up with Mom, she gets angry and won't talk to me for days. Please help me find a way out.

TRAPPED IN CHICAGO

DEAR TRAPPED: Your umbilical cord was supposed to have been severed 25 years ago, at birth. You are an adult individual who deserves happiness and freedom from this attachment to your mother.

She may not believe in doctors and therapists—and that's her privilege as long as she's not a danger to herself and others. But that doesn't mean you shouldn't talk with a mental health professional about this unhealthy situation.

Your sisters haven't helped you because they have their freedom and don't want to share the responsibility you have been carrying alone. And your mother doesn't want to let go of you because if she does, she'll have to assume responsibility for herself.

Please act now. Your escape hatch is the door to a therapist's office. You deserve a life, so go there and get one.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I recently found out that my boyfriend of three years—the only man I have ever been with—cheated on me with a woman I thought was a good friend. I love him and have decided to take him back and fight for what we had. He assured me that he wants to be only with me, that what he did was "stupid" and he has learned his lesson.

Abby, although I have forgiven him, I can't bring myself to forgive HER. I have never been someone who holds a grudge, but I have so much hate for her that it scares me. I did get professional help, but it didn't work.

I don't want to be like this. This is not who I am. I'm worried about how I might react when I see her. I can't avoid her since we work in the same industry. Why can I forgive him but not her?

MOVING FORWARD IN TEXAS

DEAR MOVING FORWARD: Probably because having invested three years in the "only man you have ever been with," you don't want it to have been for nothing—so you're directing the anger you still feel toward HIM at the woman you would like to imagine seduced him. (Remember, it takes two to tango.) Also, you may still regard her as a threat.

While you may have forgiven your boyfriend, do not forget what happened. A man who cheats and blames it on "stupidity" may do it again with someone else. You need to understand why he did what he did. Is he someone who lives only in the moment? Did he not consider how it would affect you? Is he capable of fidelity in the long run? From my perspective, you need answers to these questions because you may only now be getting to know who he really is.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby – Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

iPhone tops Yahoo's year in search

By JON SWARTZ
USA TODAY

An object, not a person or event, was the top-searched topic on Yahoo this year.

The iPhone led all search queries, besting a reality TV star's abbreviated marriage and the notorious defendant in a made-for-tabloid-TV trial.

Yahoo announced the findings as part of its 10th annual Year in Review (yearinreview.yahoo.com), which identifies the top stories and trends of the year based on nearly 700 million monthly unique visitors on its network and their billions of online searches.

The iPhone's status marks the first time a product landed in the

this year were from iPhones and about iPhones. Powerball

YAHOO'S TOP-10 LIST BY SEARCH:

1. iPhone
2. Casey Anthony
3. Kim Kardashian
4. Katy Perry
5. Jennifer Lopez
6. Lindsay Lohan
7. American Idol
8. Jennifer Aniston
9. Japan earthquake
10. Osama bin Laden

top spot since Kazaa in 2003. Last year, the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was the most searched.

Fittingly, many of the mobile searches on Yahoo

was second, followed by Major League Baseball, a popular app on the iPhone.

The death of Apple co-founder Steve Jobs was not among the top-10 searches this year.

In other results, Danica Patrick finished ahead of Tiger Woods as the most-searched athlete; Sarah Palin out-polluted President Obama in the category for politicians; and Charlie Sheen was the top "obsession."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Italy probes report that Colosseum stones fall

ROME (AP)—Italy's culture ministry said Wednesday that it is investigating reports that bits of rock have fallen from the Colosseum. Witnesses reported seeing the fallen masonry Sunday. Italian news agency ANSA reported another bit fell Tuesday, but Colosseum director Rossella Rea denied it and blamed the false report on a "psychosis" that occurs every so often that Rome's iconic stadium is crumbling. Italian environmental group Legambiente has frequently raised the alarm about the precarious state of the Colosseum, charging that auto exhaust fumes and vibrations from vehicles and a nearby subway are damaging the Colosseum's travertine exterior and brick and tufa interior. A euro25 million (\$33 million) restoration, paid for by Diego Della Valle, founder of shoemaker Tod's, is set to begin in March.

Bieber's grandparents fine after car crash

STRATFORD, Ontario (AP)—Ontario police confirmed Wednesday that pop star Justin Bieber's grandparents were in a car crash but say they are both fine. Constable Kees Wijnands said Bruce and Diane Dale drove into a ditch Tuesday afternoon after hitting a patch of slushy snow on a road near Stratford, Ontario, Bieber's hometown. Wijnands said the car rolled over and struck a small tree before landing back on its wheels. He said Bruce Dale was treated in the hospital and that both are fine. Bieber's mother, Pattie Mallette, broke the news on Twitter on Tuesday afternoon, setting off an outpouring of support online. "My parents got into a car accident today. They flipped into a ditch & totaled the car but thank God they are alive! My dad has broken ribs. Plz pray 4 him 4 quick healing! Count your blessings & forgive ur parents always. U never know what

tomorrow holds!!!" she tweeted. Bieber did not comment on the incident.

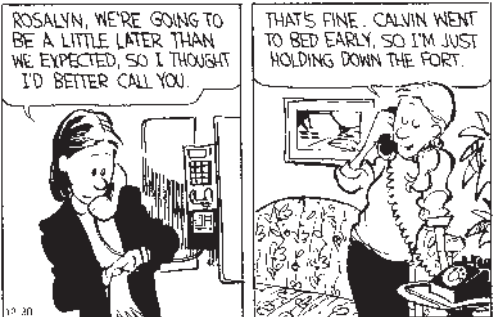
Website says Sinead O'Connor's marriage is over

LONDON (AP)—A statement on Sinead O'Connor's website says her brief marriage to therapist Barry Herridge has ended amicably. The statement on sineadoconnor.com says "the marriage was 16 days. We lived together for 7 days only.. Until Xmas eve." The statement says "from the moment myself and my husband got together ... there was intense pressure placed upon him by certain people in his life, not to be involved with me." She adds: "As my good friend said 'well, at least you got married in Vegas in a pink Cadillac! Can't get more Rock n Roll than that.'" Roman Szendrey, who maintains the site, told The Associated Press by phone Wednesday the report is accurate and was personally posted by O'Connor.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



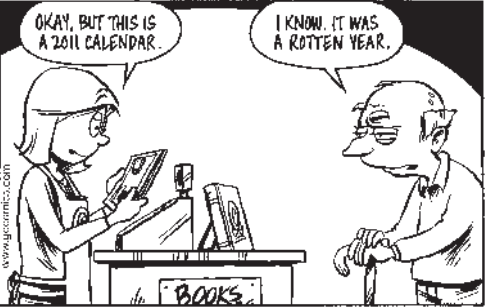
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Garden pest

6 Not functioning

9 Third degree?

12 Fuddydaddy

13 Male turkey

14 Corn spike

15 Inventor Nikola

16 Bedtime interjection

18 Improved

20 Seed covering

21 Underwear with underwire

23 That girl

24 Lascivious

25 Cry from a sty

27 Colorado ski mecca

29 Attachments

31 Foam

35 Michelangelo masterpiece

37 Wrestling style

38 Throat ailment, briefly

41 Rend

43 Long lunch?

44 Gator's cousin

45 Altercations

47 Sled team, often

49 Tribute

52 Teensy

53 Pesticide letters

54 Oust

55 Billboards

56 Sauce source

57 Computerized music-maker, for short

DOWN

1 Suitable

2 Opposite of post

3 Spouse

4 Between jobs

5 One of Franklin's certainties

6 Them

7 Quartet

8 Some radios

9 Seckels, e.g.

10 Custom

11 With irony

17 Frequents

19 Rib

21 Squeezing snake

22 Disen-cumber

24 Meadow

26 .01 ruble

28 Unadorned

30 Pinch

32 King of Jordan, 1952-99

33 Ostrich's

34 Plagiarize

36 Reliable

38 Unstressed vowel

39 Aligned

40 Kentucky Derby prize

42 They're calling Danny Boy

45 Start over

46 Almost black

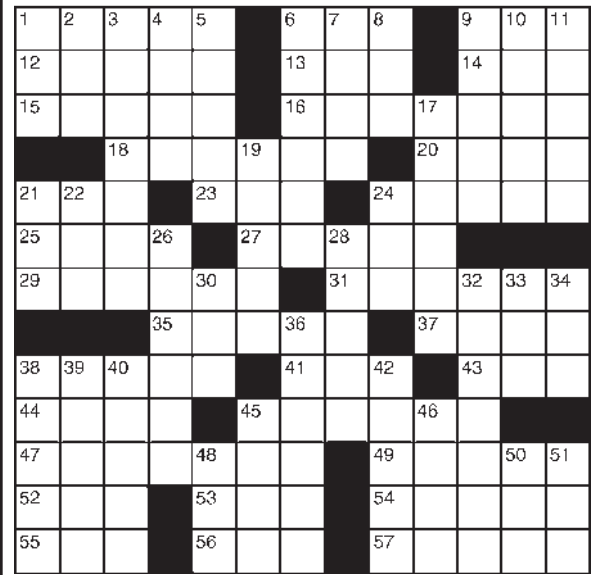
48 Egos' counterparts

50 Performance

51 To the — degree

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterdays answer 12-30



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Eliza Dushku, 31; Laila Ali, 34; Tiger Woods, 36; Matt Lauer, 54.

Happy Birthday: Money matters must be taken care of appropriately. Whether you owe or someone owes you, find a way to sort out the debt. Making a fuss won't work, but taking the initiative to come up with a workable solution will. Greater opportunity will come through your own efforts and services you can offer. Your numbers are 8, 17, 24, 28, 35, 46, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): A little shopping spree will help boost your confidence with a product or look you put together to enhance your appearance. Love is highlighted, and spending time socializing, networking or enjoying interesting activities will pay off. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Share what you know with someone you respect and you will get valuable suggestions that will fit into your plans. Don't worry about being a little pushy. As long as you are complimentary, your questions and directness will be accepted. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Added responsibility will impress someone who has the potential to help you and influence your future. Be careful not to let your emotions get involved. The more controlled you are in your handling of a situation, the more marketable you will become. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A little downtime with family or friends will do you good. Open your doors and enjoy

the pleasure of catering to others. The impression you make will lead to some interesting offers that will help you excel in the new year. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Greater security and a chance to develop better relationships are apparent if you are serious about doing your share and finding complimentary ways to work alongside the people who mean the most to you. Love is in the stars. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Emotional matters will skyrocket, bringing situations you may have been avoiding into the forefront. Don't back away, or you will send the wrong impression. Deal with matters head-on so that you can move on. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Approach the changes you want to make with caution. Not everyone will be in favor of your plans. Consider a colorful way of expressing your ideas and how you see them unfolding. Include a positive view of how it will affect loved ones. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Get out and spend time with people who share your interests. Common ground will spark ideas or a way you can resurrect something you need help finishing. A favor and a promise are heading your way. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll face opposition over emotional matters that surface. Avoid anyone who wants to corner you or tries to take advantage of you. Take time out to make some personal improvements that will help deter any interference. Do what's best for you. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A change at home will bring you great joy. Invite old friends over to share your good fortune. Past experience coupled with what you have to contribute presently will lead to a brighter, more secure future. Home improvements will pay off. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't overdo it. Taking on too much, overspending and overindulging will be your downfall. Pace what you do carefully and avoid letting someone you spend time with talk you into something you know you shouldn't do. ***

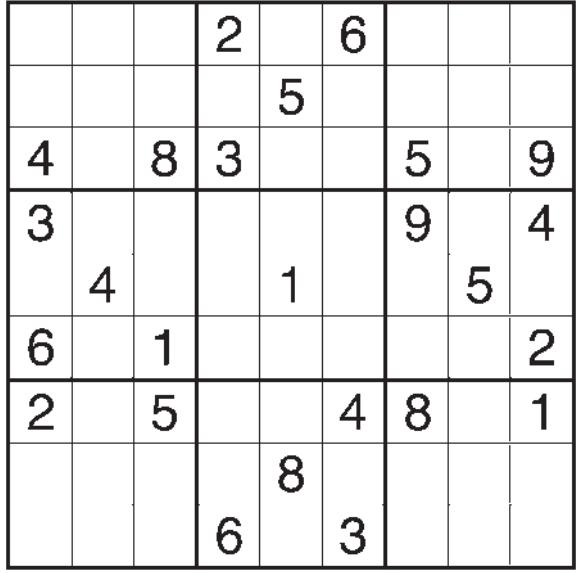
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Say little and avoid repercussions. Not everyone will be on your side. Don't let your emotions give away your true feelings. Keep your thoughts a secret. Make love, not war. Actions will truly speak louder than words. ***

Birthday Baby: You are a dreamer with a creative outlook. You are passionate and playful. Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

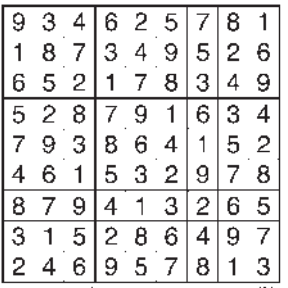
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 12/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

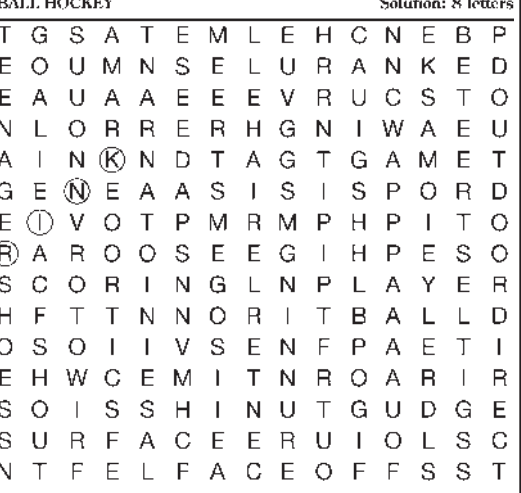


Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/29

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.



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Arena, Asphalt, Ball, Bench, Center, Curve, Direct, Drop, Face-offs, Foot, Fouls, Game, Gloves, Goalie, Grab, Guards, Helmet, Highest, Icing, League, Left, Limit, Mask, Nets, Outdoor, Pads, Player, Ranked, Rink, Road, Roar, Rules, Running, Save, Scoring, Shin, Shoes, Shot, Shoot, Speed, Sport, Stick, Street, Surface, Teams, Teenagers, Time, Tournament, Trip, Wing, Winner

Yesterday's Answer: Singing

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Email: lzmspn@hotmail.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: (2) Masseuse **Salary: \$5.05 per hour**
Open date: December 30, 2011 **Closing date: January 09, 2012**

Recruitment object: U.S. citizens, green card holders, a person holding an umbrella permit with or without yet applied for CW-1, an immediate relative of a US citizen, person who has a parole or parole in place, or a person which qualify and have valid reason to apply CW-1.

Requirements: People with good character, warm & friendly, understanding & cooperative, and team player. Applicants must be able to work on weekends, holidays and night time shifts (till middle night). Japanese, Chinese, Korean and Russian speaking is a plus but not required.

Work hours are 40 hours per week. Work hours may be reduced, as the case may be on variable hours with a minimum of 32-36 hours per week. These may be also increased to more than 40 hours per week depending on our business demands. Overtime will be calculated by 1.5 times. Bi-weekly payroll. Company will provide training to qualified applicant.

Interested applicants are invited to submit their resume (with current picture) to Sterling Corporation Office, inside Spa Verde, located in Garapan area, across Fiesta Hotel parking lot (next to Micro Beach Hotel).



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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, INC.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, INC.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0295 (E)
Plaintiff,	
-v-	SUMMONS
FRANCISCO E. SANTOS,	
Defendant.	

TO: FRANCISCO E. SANTOS
P.O. BOX 511655
ROTA, MP 96951

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to MAILMAN & KARA, LLC, Attn: Bruce L. Mailman, the Plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is PMB 238, Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing.


Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above Court:

DATED, this 2nd day of November, 2011:

/s/ CLERK OF COURTS

WHATZIT Solution: Table Mountain



Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

Vacancy Announcement
Program Officer
Northern Marianas Humanities Council

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council) is soliciting applications for the position of Program Officer. The Program Officer is responsible for developing and implementing a variety of humanities programs and events and coordinating the Council's Community Grants program under the supervision of the Council's executive director and board of directors. A detailed description of the Program Officer's duties may be obtained from the Council's office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai or from the Council's website at www.nmihumanities.org.

Applicants for this position must possess: (1). strong analytic, writing and communication skills; (2). knowledge of grants writing and grants administration; (3). the ability to work effectively with people from diverse backgrounds; (4). a working knowledge of NMI history and of current political, social and economic issues confronting the local community; (5). basic computer skills including knowledge of MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint; and (6). the ability to articulate the Council's mission to a wide range of audiences.

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree (B.A. or B.S.) in a humanities discipline from an accredited postsecondary institution. The salary range is from \$35,000 to \$40,000 depending on qualifications and experience. Benefits are set forth in the NMICH Personnel Policy Manual.

Interested individuals are invited to send an application package including: (1). letter of interest; (2). detailed résumé; (3). a writing sample (500-800 words on a humanities topic of your choice); and (4). the names and addresses of three references to Scott Russell, Executive Director, Northern Marianas Humanities Council, Box 506407, Saipan, MP 96950. Complete application packages must be received by Council staff on or before 4:00 p.m. on Monday, January 9, 2012. For more information about this employment opportunity please contact Council staff at 235-4785.

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is an equal opportunity employer.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS


Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.


ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



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Find today's solution in classified section

Wade's winning shot lifts Heat over Bobcats, 96-95



CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Dwyane Wade hit a bank shot over Gerald Henderson with 2.9 seconds left to lift the Miami Heat to a 96-95 victory over the pesky Charlotte Bobcats on Wednesday and remain unbeaten.

After Henderson hit a 3-pointer from the right wing to put the Bobcats up by one with 12 seconds left, the Heat called time and had Wade bring the ball up. He drove to the left side and banked the shot over Henderson, then turned to Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton seated courtside and imitated Newton's Superman touchdown celebration by pretending to rip open his shirt.

D.J. Augustin's 3-point attempt off a side inbound play didn't fall and D.J. White's put-back at the buzzer rolled off the rim as time expired.

LeBron James scored 35 points and Chris Bosh chipped in with 25 as the Heat overcame a sluggish first half in front of 19,614, the largest crowd ever to see a Bobcats game at Time Warner Cable Arena.

James and Bosh combined to score 35 points in the second half. They had plenty of help from the Bobcats, who turned the ball over 12 times on 25 third-quarter possessions.

Henderson led the Bobcats with 21 points, while Augustin had 20. Boris Diaw had a terrific game as well with 16 points, 16 rebounds and eight assists.

The young Bobcats seemed to feed off the crowd early on and certainly weren't intimidated by the Eastern Conference champions.

The Bobcats jumped out to an 11-0 lead and led by as many as 16 points in the first half against a Heat team that hadn't trailed for more than 14 seconds in their first two games.

They got plenty of open looks, using a pick-and-pop to free up center Diaw for 3-pointers from the top of the key. Augustin was fearless in the first half, showing no signs of a sprained ankle from Monday night by hitting on 3 of 4 3-pointers in the first half for 16 points as the Bobcats took a 60-45 lead into the locker room.

And even without an established big man, the Bobcats out-rebounded the Heat 25-14 in the first half.

The Heat looked out of sync and frustrated early on.

James got pick-pocketed by Derrick Brown in the halfcourt set and later threw up an air ball on a turnaround jumper after posting up low against Corey Maggette. The other two-thirds of Miami's Big Three also struggled, with Bosh getting rejected in the paint by rookie Bismack Biyombo and Wade hitting just 2 of 8 from the field.

Hornets 97, Celtics 78

In New Orleans, Jarrett Jack had 21 points and nine assists in his regular-season debut, and New

Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade, center, sails to the basket past Charlotte Bobcats' Bismack Biyombo, right, as Bobcats' Byron Mullens, left, and Heat's Udonis Haslem, second from left, look on during the second half of the Heat's 96-95 win in an NBA basketball game in Charlotte, N.C., Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2011.



Orleans dominated in its home opener, beating the winless Boston Celtics.

The Celtics are 0-3 for the first time since 2006-07, the season before they traded to bring Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen in to help star Paul Pierce. Pierce has yet to play this season because of a bruised right heel.

The Hornets were without Eric Gordon, who has a bruised right knee.

Jack did not play in the Hornets' season-opening win at Phoenix on Monday night because of a one-game suspension stemming from an arrest for drunk-driving last season.

Carl Landry added 20 points and 11 rebounds for the Hornets.

Pacers 90, Raptors 85

In Toronto, Danny Granger scored nine of his 21 points in the fourth quarter as Indiana beat the Raptors.

Paul George had 18 points, David West scored 14 and Roy Hibbert had 12 points and 10 rebounds.

Darren Collison became the fifth Pacers starter to reach double figures by making a pair of free throws with 2.5 seconds left. He finished with 10 points and 12 assists.

Indiana, which beat Detroit at home on Monday, won for the seventh time in 11 games against Toronto, and ended a streak of 11 straight victories by the home team in the series.

DeMar DeRozan scored 22 points and Andrea Bargnani had 21 for Toronto.

Cavaliers 105, Pistons 89

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, rookie Kyrie Irving had 14 points and seven assists to help Cleveland beat Detroit, spoiling the Pistons' first home opener with

new owner Tom Gores.

Reserve Samardo Samuels scored 17 and Ramon Sessions had 16 points off the bench for the Cavaliers, who got 15 points from Antawn Jamison and 10 points apiece from Anderson Varejao and rookie Tristan Thompson.

Detroit Ben Gordon had 25 points and rookie reserve Brandon Knight scored 23.

Sessions made the last shot of the first quarter to put the Cavs ahead for good and they turned the game into a rout in the fourth quarter.

Rodney Stuckey scored 11 points for the Pistons, who got 10 points apiece from Tayshaun Prince and Greg Monroe.

Spurs 115, Clippers 90

In San Antonio, Manu Ginobili scored 24 points and DeJuan Blair added 20 to lead San Antonio over the Los Angeles Clippers.

Blake Griffin scored 28 points for the Clippers, while Chris Paul was held to 3-of-10 shooting and finished with 10 points.

Richard Jefferson added 19 points on 8-of-9 shooting for the Spurs, who have won 17 straight home games against the Clippers, a streak that dates to Jan. 31, 2002. Tony Parker scored 14 points, James Anderson 12 and Tim Duncan 10.

The Spurs hit 45 of 80 shots from the field while limiting the Clippers to 29-of-74 shooting. San Antonio led by only four points at halftime but outscored Los Angeles 36-15 in the third quarter to take control.

76ers 103, Suns 83

In Phoenix, Andre Iguodala scored 15 points to lead six players in double figures as Philadelphia routed Phoenix.

Jrue Holiday and Thaddeus

Young also scored 15 each for the Sixers, who used a 19-0 run at the beginning of the third quarter to extend a 14-point halftime lead to 67-34 with 6:44 remaining.

Ronnie Price, signed as a free agent on Dec. 13, matched a career high with 16 points, and Grant Hill and Hakim Warrick added 14 each for the Suns, who are off to an 0-2 start for the first time since 1996-97.

Philadelphia needed less than 90 seconds of the third quarter to stretch a 48-34 lead at halftime to 11 at 55-34 on Spencer Hawes' steal and dunk with 10:34 to go in the period.

Hawks 101, Wizards 83

In Atlanta, Joe Johnson led another balanced attack with 18 points as Atlanta beat Washington.

The Hawks have had six players score in double figures in each of their first two wins to open the season. Tracy McGrady had 11 points off the bench to join Atlanta's five starters in double figures.

Marvin Williams scored 17 points, Josh Smith had 15 points and 10 rebounds, and Al Horford added another double-double with 11 points and 10 boards.

Nick Young had 21 points and John Wall added 20 for Washington, which has lost its first two games. JaVale McGee had 15 points and 12 rebounds for the Wizards, who never led.

Nuggets 117, Jazz 100

In Denver, Nene scored 25 points, reserve Al Harrington had 18 points and seven rebounds, and Denver rolled over the Utah.

Ty Lawson had 15 points and Danilo Gallinari had 11 points and five rebounds for the Nuggets, who have won their first two games of the season by double digits.

Al Jefferson had 19 points

and rookie Alec Burks had 15 points for Utah, which was blown away for the second consecutive game.

Paul Millsap and C.J. Miles scored 13 each for the Jazz.

Nene played an efficient 24 minutes. He hit 10 of 13 shots, made all five of his foul shots and pulled down seven rebounds. He also sparked a decisive run in the first half that gave Denver control of the game.

Thunder 98, Grizzlies 95

In Memphis, Tennessee, Kevin Durant scored 32 points, James Harden added 20, and Oklahoma remained undefeated by winning the rematch of its seven-game victory in last season's second-round playoff series.

Kendrick Perkins added 10 for Oklahoma City, but point guard Russell Westbrook had only four points, all on free throws while misfiring on 13 shots from the field.

Zach Randolph finished with 24 points, while Rudy Gay scored 19 and Marc Gasol added 16 points. Each had 12

rebounds, as Memphis held a 49-41 advantage on the boards.

Jeremy Pargo, filling in for point guard Mike Conley, who aggravated a left ankle injury in the game's early stages, had 15 points and seven assists, while committing only one turnover.

Warriors 92, Knicks 78

In Oakland, California, Monta Ellis shook off a terrible first half to finish with 22 points and eight assists, Brandon Rush added 19 points off the bench and Golden State beat New York.

Playing without injured guard Stephen Curry, the Warriors led by as much as 19 before cruising to their second straight impressive win over an Eastern Conference team. Two nights earlier Golden State (2-1) beat the Chicago Bulls 99-91.

Ish Smith had 11 points, four assists and six rebounds while starting in place of Curry, who sat out the game after injuring his ankle against Chicago.

Amare Stoudemire finished with 16 points and 10 rebounds for New York while Carmelo Anthony had 13 points.

6-time Pro Bowler Taylor to retire after this season



DAVIE, Fla.

(AP)—Linebacker Jason Taylor walked across the locker room brushing his teeth, then ducked into the equipment room to rinse and spit. Minutes later he tried to muster a smile for a cluster of TV cameras.

It was time to call it quits.

The NFL's active sacks leader said he'll retire after this season, his 15th in the NFL and his 13th with the Miami Dolphins. Taylor has contemplated retirement in years past only to be lured back, but now he insists his mind's made up.

"Sunday's my last game," he said. "I might even change my cell phone number so they can't reach me."

The 37-year-old Taylor, who made the announcement following practice Wednesday, ranks sixth all-time with 139 1/2 sacks. He has six fumble returns for touchdowns, an NFL record.

He'll conclude his career Sunday against the New York Jets. It'll be his 204th game with the Dolphins, which ranks second to Dan Marino's 242.

"His contributions on the field as one of the greatest players in team history will be remembered by Dolphins fans for years to come," owner Stephen Ross said in a statement. "He will always remain an integral part of the Dolphin family."

Taylor has had three stints with the Dolphins, who drafted him in the third round in 1997. He also played for the Redskins in 2008 and the Jets

in 2010.

"In my opinion, that's a no-brainer Hall of Fame player," Jets coach Rex Ryan said. "He was a phenomenal teammate here. We only had him the one year, yet he affected the team so positively. I'm proud that I had a chance to coach him."

Taylor helped the Jets reach the AFC championship game. He never made it to the Super Bowl, and his final playoff game with the Dolphins was way back in 2001.

"If there was one regret I have as an athlete, it's that I didn't get a chance to bring a championship to Miami," he said.

Taylor said his wife was surprised he's hanging it up. But the Dolphins (5-10) are nearing the end of another disappointing season and about to embark on a coaching search, which influenced his decision.

"The last few weeks I thought about it more," he said. "It has been a tough year. This organization is going to make some changes. This is the right time for me to go and allow this organization to grow and improve."

Taylor made the Pro Bowl six times, spending much of his career at end before switching to linebacker. He has been used mostly in passing situations this season and has seven sacks this season, which ranks second on the team.

"He's a great leader, a great ambassador for the city of Miami, and a great player in this league," teammate Jake Long said. "He'll definitely be missed."

A's trade closer Bailey, OF Sweeney to Red Sox



BOSTON (AP)—For Andrew Bailey, coming in from the bullpen at Fenway Park is a special feeling. He'll experience that a lot more next season.

New manager Bobby Valentine found his new man for the back end of the Boston bullpen on Wednesday when the Red Sox obtained the All-Star closer and outfielder Ryan Sweeney from the Oakland Athletics for outfielder Josh Reddick, infield prospect Miles Head and minor league pitcher Raul Alcantara.

In the deal, first reported by ESPN, Bailey gives the Red Sox a reliable ninth-inning guy to replace the departed Jonathan Papelbon, who signed a \$50 million, four-year contract as a free agent with the Philadelphia Phillies in November.

The 27-year-old Bailey has three saves in four appearances at Fenway Park in his three major-league seasons.

"The one that sticks out the most was my first save opportunity this year was against the Red Sox," Bailey said in a conference call. "I actually blew that save. From what I remember, there's nothing like the atmosphere of running into the game from the bullpen at Fenway Park."

A New Jersey native and off-season resident of Connecticut, Bailey is excited about coming back east.

He already knows Valentine, who lives in Stamford, Conn., and hosted several events for the pediatric cancer foundation of Bailey and former teammate Craig Breslow.

"Bobby and I are good friends," Bailey said. "It just kind of helps knowing someone going in."

Bailey—the 2009 AL Rookie of the Year, who made the All-Star team that season and again in 2010—had been the subject of trade talk this offseason.

The right-hander went 0-4 with a 3.24 ERA and 24 saves in 41 2-3 innings and 42 appearances this year. He spent time on the disabled list for the second straight season, pitching for the first time in 2011 on May 29 after being sidelined with a strained right forearm.

"I'm feeling good," he said. "This is my first healthy off-season I've had since I've been in the big leagues."

In his career, he is 7-10 with a 2.07 ERA and 75 saves in 84 opportunities. In 2010, Oakland led the AL in ERA (3.56) and shutouts (17) while holding opponents to a .245 batting average.

Bailey becomes the fourth key pitcher traded this month for the rebuilding A's, who dealt starter Trevor Cahill and reliever Breslow to the Arizona Diamondbacks on Dec. 9 and then sent left-handed starter Gio Gonzalez to Washington last week.

Still left in Oakland's depleted rotation are Dallas Braden, Brett Anderson and Brandon McCarthy.

Braden, who pitched a perfect

game on May 9, 2010, received a \$3.35 million, one-year contract Dec. 13. But he made only three starts last season before being sidelined by a shoulder injury that required surgery.

"That organization is heading down a different road where they're trying to get younger and build for a future in San Jose," Bailey said.

Oakland general manager Billy Beane is retooling his roster for the future in hopes of the franchise getting the go ahead to build a new ballpark some 40 miles south in San Jose despite the San Francisco Giants owning the territorial rights to technology-rich Santa Clara County.

Beane and owner Lew Wolff have said they expect to hear soon from Commissioner Bud Selig, and Beane said the unsettled stadium situation would affect him being able to sign his own and other free agents this winter. He has gone the trade route yet again, a common practice for the low-budget franchise that has watched its superstars leave for big money elsewhere over the past decade.

The A's (74-88) haven't posted a winning record or earned a

playoff berth since being swept in the 2006 AL championship series by Detroit.

The Red Sox missed the playoffs the past two years, but won the World Series in 2004 and 2007.

"I think every kid playing T-ball out there strives to pitch in the postseason and meaningful games in September and, ultimately, the World Series," Bailey said. "So I'm going to welcome that with open arms."

On Dec. 14, Boston traded for Houston closer Mark Melancon, who had 20 saves last year

in 71 relief outings but may be a setup man for Bailey.

"We believe both are fully capable of (closing)," Red Sox general manager Ben Cherington said. "Bailey's been doing it for a little bit longer so perhaps he goes in with the leg up."

Sweeney is in the mix for Boston's right field job now that J.D. Drew is a free agent. He's an outstanding fielder who can play all three spots. In six seasons, he has a .283 batting average after hitting .265 with one homer and 25 RBIs in 264 at bats last season.

Reddick, who began last season at Triple-A Pawtucket before being promoted in late May, will look to fill a big void in Oakland's open outfield.

The 24-year-old Reddick batted .280 with seven homers and 28 RBIs in 87 games for Boston in 2011. He can play any outfield spot and likely will get immediate action for the A's, who already lost outfielders David DeJesus and Josh Willingham in free agency. Center fielder Coco Crisp isn't expected to return either.

At last summer's trade dead-

line, the A's and Red Sox were near completion on a deal that would have sent Oakland right-hander Rich Harden to Boston for Triple-A first baseman Lars Anderson, but it fell through late because of Harden's lengthy list of injury issues.

Former Red Sox pitching coach Curt Young returned to the A's this offseason to work under manager Bob Melvin.

Head, a first baseman, batted .299 with 22 home runs and 82 RBIs in 129 games with the Red Sox two Single-A affiliates, at Greenville and Salem.

A-Rod fine after treatment on knee, shoulder

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Yankees say star third baseman Alex Rodriguez is totally fine after having special treatment on his right knee and left shoulder in Germany earlier this month.

The 36-year-old Rodriguez had plasma-rich platelet injections following a recommendation from Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant. Yankees general manager Brian Cashman

said Wednesday that the team gave its permission after vetting the process.

Rodriguez's treatment was first reported by the New York Post.

Cashman says the therapy is in "complete compliance" with WADA and Major League Baseball regulations. He also said the treatment is performed in the United States. The Yan-

kees say Rodriguez went to the doctor in Germany because he's at the top of this field.

Rodriguez had surgery on his right knee last July and saw his power drop in the second half and postseason. He played in 99 games and hit 16 home runs. He has 629 career homers.

Cashman says Rodriguez is "100 percent" right now and that there are "no red flags" go-

ing into spring training. Cashman says he expects Rodriguez to be able to play every day.

The Yankees also said they've reached agreement with 37-year-old lefty Hideki Okajima for a nonroster invite to spring training. Once a staple of the Boston bullpen, he spent most of last year in Triple-A for the Red Sox. The Yankees envision him as a possible lefty specialist.



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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Attorney for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,
Plaintiff,

vs.

DAVID O. SABLAN and BERNADITA M. SABLAN,
Defendants.

Civil Action No. 03-0365B

NOTICE OF AUCTION

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants David O. Sablan and Bernadita M. Sablan in the following described, real property situated in San Antonio, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 004 I 05 (formerly Block 3, Lot 5), containing an area of 479 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 004 I 00, the original of which was registered March 1, 1971, as Document No. 715 at Land Registry, Saipan, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at 2:00 p.m., on Friday, January 20, 2012, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

- Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
- Reserve.** The auction shall be held with reserve.

- Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:

- To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
- To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.

- Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.

- Deposit: Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card¹. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.

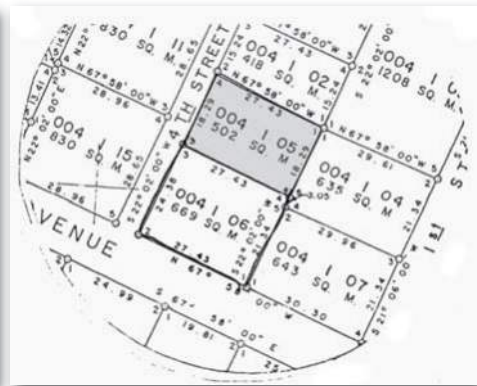
- Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

- Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of David O. Sablan and Bernadita M. Sablan in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 2nd day of November 2011.

/S/ RAMON C. MAFNAS, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

¹ MasterCard and VISA only: a 2% processing fee will be charged on credit card payment(s).



2011 Saipan Sportsfest pushes through

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The 2011 Saipan Sportsfest that featured the XTERRA Saipan Championship and Tagaman Triathlon went ahead as scheduled in March despite a tsunami threat.

The XTERRA Saipan Championship was held a day after Japan was struck by a tsunami and earthquake. A tsunami warning

Sam Gardner runs along the shore at Micro Beach after completing the first lap of the swim race during the 2011 XTERRA Saipan Championships in March.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



was issued on Saipan Friday afternoon, March 11, canceling the XTERRA Trail Run.

The following day, despite fear of the water, swimmers plunged into action at Micro Beach and offered prayers for the victims of the disasters in Japan before the race started.

United Kingdom's Sam Gardner and American Shonny Vanlandingham went on to win the men's and women's division races, respectively. Gardner

battled food poisoning en route to his third straight victory in the Crown Jewel of XTERRA. Vanlandingham won for the first time and ended Renata Bucher's six-year reign. Bucher dropped to third behind the XTERRA Saipan newcomer and eventual runner-up Carina Wasle of Austria.

The 2011 Saipan Sportsfest was completed with the staging of Tagaman Triathlon, which still drew a crowd despite a couple of withdrawals from

Japanese athletes affected by the tsunami.

Again, Gardner went through a tough fight before winning. He recovered from a slow start in the swim leg against the faster and younger Korean contingent, survived a bike crash, and ran to the finish line bleeding and bruised.

In the women's division U.S. pro Suzie Snyder pulled off an upset over Bucher, Wasle, and 2010 champion Dan Bi Hong.

CNMI loses Micro Games bid

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association tried to bring the 2017 Pacific Mini Games to the CNMI, but lost to Vanuatu in the selection process during the Pacific Games Association general assembly in New Caledonia in August.

Nauru joined the CNMI and Vanuatu in the three-way fight for the hosting rights for the 2017 Mini Games. Norfolk Island was also a candidate, but pulled out a few months before the general assembly took place. Nauru went on to bow

out of contention after the first round of election, as it got only six votes. The CNMI and Vanuatu were in a deadlock after the first round as they both received eight votes. Then in the second round, Vanuatu edged the Commonwealth, 13-9.

Though disappointed, NMA-SA president Michael White, who with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial represented the CNMI in the bid presentation, understood the decision of the majority. He added that the Commonwealth had a superior bid presentation against Vanuatu, in terms of the proposed facilities and accom-

modations, but Vanuatu still prevailed because of its proximity to most PGA members.

Before the hosting rights were awarded to Vanuatu, Pacific Games Council president Vidhya Lakhan and executive director Andrew Minogue made a site visit to Saipan in June. Minogue then gave the CNMI facilities a good grade, saying most of them are ready and need only repairs.

However, in the end the much higher cost to travel to the CNMI prompted PGAs to choose Vanuatu as the host of the quadrennial competition.

International Golf Academy launched

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Laolao Bay Golf & Resort inaugurated its International Golf Academy in July this year, which is led by U.S. pros Mark Steinbauer and Mancil Davis.

Steinbauer, also one of the

PGA's Top 100 golf instructors who worked with renowned PGA pro K.J. Choi and eight-year pro Roland Thatcher, will serve as the director of instruction.

Davis is the world-acclaimed "King of Aces" after holding PGA's world record for most official hole-in-ones with 51.

The academy aims to guide and provide the right program for young golfers to accomplish cutting-edge academics, world-class athletics, and most importantly a strong character tailored to prepare them for their next step in life both on and off the golf course.

Classes officially kick off in January or March 2012; total capacity for the school is about 45.

The academy also offers up to a 10-month program, which includes room and board, golf instruction, and schooling and even private lessons to the public available by appointment.

CNMI hosts beach volleyball Olympic qualifier

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The CNMI hosted its first-ever Asian Volleyball Confederation Beach Volleyball Oceania Continental Sub Zonal tournament at Pacific Islands Club last March.

Host team CNMI competed against national representative teams from Australia, Guam, and Papua New Guinea.

Similar campaigns were held in the Eastern, Central, Southeastern and Western zones. These zones featured two sub zonal tourneys apiece, while Oceania held three.

The event was formatted with men and women's squads competing in two-person teams.

In sub zonal play on Saipan, the CNMI's Melody Matson and Amanda Clarkson defeated Papua New Guinea's Dianne John and Hazel Ruga, 15-12, in a deciding golden set to finish second place behind Australia.

The result was good enough for the CNMI to earn passage to the zonal level of competition.

The CNMI men's team faced some tough competition

and were not so fortunate in their run.

Notably, Matson and Clarkson have since relocated, but the CNMI has patched together

a new squad and is currently training with hopes of participating in 9 AVC Zonal event which will be held in New Zealand in 2012.

Venue openings and renovations

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Various renovations made to the Oleai Sports Complex and the grand opening of the Gillette Multi-purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai took place in 2011.

With hopes of hosting the 2017 Pacific Mini-Games, renovations were made to Oleai's Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium and its neighboring Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan and Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfields.

The Oleai repairs were funded under the Community Development Block Grant.

The gym can now hold up to 1,000 spectators as workers installed new retractable bleachers.

They also fixed the leaks in the roof and added nine new turbines designed to increase circulation and cool off the inside of the building.

Both the front entrance restrooms and the locker rooms also received some much needed maintenance and brand new synthetic rubber floor panels were installed for basketball and volleyball games.

Back in May some fencing was replaced at the Tan Ge field and bleachers were installed along Tan Ko's left field fence.

The Tan Siu Lin Sports Complex also opened in June and offers badminton, basketball, and indoor soccer activities.

It is the home of the North-

ern Marianas Badminton Association, which hosted the IT&E Singles/Doubles tournament and the Saipan Soccer School's Futsal League which opened in mid-July.

It was also the venue for a number of basketball events including the 3rd Annual Shirley's Basketball Cup, United Filipino Organization's Inter-Organization Basketball Friendship League's Youth and Master Division Docomo Pacific Cup, Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League's U15 and U18 divisions, the TSL Women's Summer Basketball League, and the Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association high school basketball league.

BASEBALL

From Page 36

nied the team to Noumea.

Interestingly, the 2011 Pacific Games baseball finals mirrored the gold medal game of the 2006 Saipan Micronesian Games, which the CNMI won against Guam, 3-2.

In addition to Guam, the CNMI also competed against host New Caledonia, Palau, American Samoa, and Fiji.

CNMI pitching sensation Josh Jones got the team off to a good start on the mound in its opener, eking out a 1-0 win over Palau in nine innings.

The Commonwealth, however, would drop its next two games, falling to New Caledonia, 2-3, and then to Guam, 5-6.

The bats ran cold against the host squad on its home field, while Guam seemed to have an answer for everything the CNMI threw their way.

Fortunately, the CNMI would bounce back in its next two matches, beating American Samoa, 9-4, and Fiji, 2-1, to reach the playoffs as the fourth-ranked squad.

The bats simply came alive against American Samoa, while despite winning only one game in the competition, Fiji gave the

CNMI a run for its money by playing with a lot of pride.

The CNMI then went on to beat New Caledonia and Palau for a spot in the finals against Guam.

The Commonwealth took advantage of a jaded New Caledonia bullpen and shot past the host team, 11-5

Jones then was lights out against Palau, registering 11 punch outs, while his teammates racked up eight runs off 12 hits

Then in the finals, the CNMI fell behind early, 0-2, but rallied its way in front, 4-3, in the third frame.

Coincidentally, Jones came to the mound to start the fourth inning and turned in another dominating performance. He gave up just one run for the remainder of the game, allowing his teammates to get their bats going as the match carried on.

Veteran Delos Santos best described the team's singular mindset in winning the gold medal in Noumea in an interview with the *Saipan Tribune* during a victory party on Saipan weeks after the championship game.

"All our hard work paid off when we returned with the gold medal. We played as one unit in New Caledonia, everybody gave their share in the win," he said.

HISTORIC

From Page 36

to Taiwan, local soccer got a big boost with the establishment of the Saipan Soccer School.

The school opened its doors to the public on June 11 with no less than officials of the renowned Chelsea FC Soccer School (Hong Kong) gracing the inauguration ceremony at the TSL Sports Complex.

Former Hong Kong soccer star Leslie George Santos

led the inauguration and were joined by Chelsea FC Soccer School (Hong Kong) technical director Luam Khen Koo, head coach Kwon On "David" Tsui, Chelsea FC Soccer School president Raymond Tan, Tan Holdings board chair Tan Siu Lin, Saipan Soccer School president Jerry Tan, Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, Barrigada Mayor Jessie Palican, Rep. Edmund Villagomez, Michael White, officials from the various football clubs on Saipan, and their players and coaches.

'The Big Hit' wins PXC heavyweight belt

By **WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fital further cemented his legend in mixed martial arts by winning the Pacific Xtreme Combat heavyweight championship belt after soundly beating Guam's Roque Martinez in PXC 24 in Manila, Philippines.

Fighting out of Marianas Elite, Fital scored a fourth round technical knockout victory against the Spike 22 fighter in PXC 24's main event.

In addition to his victory in Manila last June, Fital also fought and won bouts in Beijing and Hong Kong, China; Seoul, South Korea; and Guam.

The 6'3" 240-lb brawler holds a record of 12 wins, six losses, two draws, and one no contest.

In addition to wearing the PXC heavyweight championship belt, Fital is also the current Legend Fighting Championship titleholder and was hailed locally as the People's Champ by Trench Tech Purebred Promotions' president Cuki Alvarez following an iffy draw decision he absorbed in his first meeting with Martinez.



Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fital shows off his PXC heavyweight championship belt after beating Guam's Roque Martinez in PXC 24 last July in Manila, Philippines.

Some would say that Fital defeated Martinez not once, but twice as a controversial decision by the judges resulted in a draw back in late January at PXC 22: Battle For The Belt in Guam.

The match went all five rounds, after which a draw may have been gifted to erstwhile champion Martinez under the notion of having to decisively beat the champ to be the champ.

Based on numerous accounts, Martinez played mostly defense throughout the fight and his own home crowd booed the decision when it was announced after the final bell.

At any rate, Fital immediately requested a rematch and got it roughly five months later overseas on neutral ground.

Coming into the fight of the year, Fital vowed not to leave

the result in the hands of the judges.

He used his long reach with lighter footwork to his advantage and managed to swell shut Martinez's right eye by the end

of round two.

Fital kept the pressure on his rival and took Round 3 with a number of brutal flurries and then finished Martinez off shortly after in the fourth round

when his opponent slipped and fell after blowing his load early out of the gate. Once Martinez hit the mat, Fital jumped on top of him and ground and pounded his way to the TKO triumph.

Bennett, Abrams make CNMI proud

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

CNMI runners Yvonne Bennett and Rachel Abrams participated in different tournaments, but brought the same honors to the Commonwealth this year.

Bennett led the four-athlete CNMI Team that competed in the 2011 Oceania Regional Championships in Apia, Samoa in June. Also on the squad were Clayton Kenty, Ryan Ichihara, and Sylvan Rangamar.

In Samoa, Bennett shattered two records and won one gold medal and two bronze. She clocked in at 12.52 seconds in the qualifying heat for the 100m run in the first day of the competition to break both the CNMI and Micronesian marks (12.68 seconds), which she posted in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau. In Day 2, she logged 25.67 seconds in the qualifying heat for the 200m race, eclipsing both the CNMI and Micronesian records (26.41 seconds), which she also made Palau last year.

Bennett then saved her best for last, clinching the gold medal in the 400m race. Bennet clocked in at 57.66 seconds to beat Papua New Guinea's Venessa Waro (57.85 seconds) and Guam's Naomi Blaz (60.12).

Less than three months after Bennett's triumph in Samoa, it



Rachel Abrams, seen here competing in the 2011 McDonald's All Schools Championships, made it to the finals of the 200m race in the 2011 Pacific Games in Noumea, New Caledonia, last September.

was Abrams' turn to give pride to the CNMI.

The 16-year-old sprinter joined the 200m race in the 2011 Pacific Games at the Stade Numa Daly in Noumea, New Caledonia and advanced to the finals.

Abrams completed the race in 27.46 seconds to finish second on Heat 3 and join top finisher Papua New Guinea's Venessa Waro (26.06 seconds) in the finals. Abrams was the first CNMI runner to march into the finals of the Pacific Games.

Records galore in swimming

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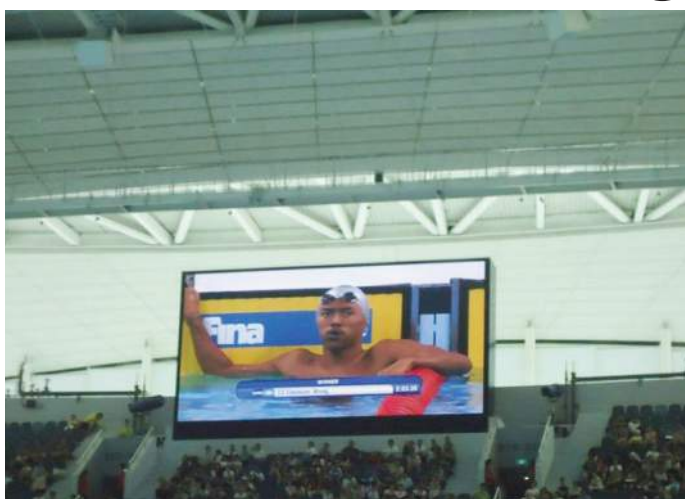
Swim records were broken one after another in 2011.

CNMI age group and national marks were made in both local and international competitions.

Rezne Wong joined the 14th FINA World Championships at the Shanghai Oriental Sports Center in Shanghai, China, in July and reset two CNMI national records. He clocked in at two minutes and 23.35 seconds in the qualifying heat for the 200m breaststroke to surpass the Commonwealth record of 2:26.83 he also owned. Then in the 200m individual medley, Wong submitted 2:10.18, breaking the CNMI national mark (2:14.48) he logged on May 30, 2009.

From Shanghai, the Marianas High School graduate went to Shenzhen in August to represent the CNMI in the 2011 Summer Universiade. Matthew Mancao also joined the Shenzhen competition and raced in the road bike. In Shenzhen, Wong reset three CNMI national records.

In the 50m butterfly, Wong posted 26.66 seconds to shatter the 27.87 seconds Kai Staal recorded on April 16, 2011. In the 100m breaststroke, he finished the race in 1:07.66, which was faster than his 1:08.79 made on July 26, 2009, during the World



Rezne Wong is seen in the giant screen after completing a race in the 14th FINA World Championships at the Shanghai Oriental Sports Center in Shanghai, China, in July.

Championships in Rome, Italy. The Tsunami Saipan swimmer's last record in Shenzhen came from the 50m breaststroke where he timed in at 31.31 seconds, to eclipse the 31.62 seconds he tallied on July 28, 2009, in Rome.

For local tournaments, Tsunami Saipan's Lukas Kang and Ryuto Yanai alternately shattered records in the boys U18 division. As of Dec. 19, Yanai owns three records, while Kang has eight. Incidentally, all 11 age group marks in the U8 are posted this year with Kang and Yanai either resetting or posting new records.

In the 9 to 10 age group,

Saipan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru made new six marks, while Miku Tammy made it into the CNMI swim record books for the first time with her 5:43.69 in the 400m freestyle.

Angel Marie Tan moved up to the 11 to 12 age group this year and established six new age group records, while Kensuke Kimura had the same feat in the boys 13 to 14 age group.

Completing the list of record-breakers for 2011 was Kai Staal, who logged 29.60 seconds in the 50m backstroke on April 16, 2011 and 27.87 seconds (same date) in the 50m butterfly, before Wong crushed that CNMI national mark.

Junior netters reign supreme in NPQ anew

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

The CNMI Junior Tennis National Team's domination in the North Pacific Qualifying Tournament continued this year.

The Jeff Race-coached squad clinched four championships, one runner-up, and two third place finishes in the NPQ, which also drew players from host Guam, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Thea Minor and Rafael Jones gave the Commonwealth two singles titles in the U18 age groups, while Carl Dela Cruz and Mikayla Lopez also triumphed in the U15 division. Negahr Rastguir placed second in the girls U12, while Moris Villanueva and Tammy Ackerman finished third in the same age group.

These seven players went on to make it to the North Pacific Team that competed against the East and West squads in the 2011 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji. Also gaining slots on the team were Jake Lee, Christian Miller, and Melody Johnson.

The CNMI notched 10 of the 20 spots on the squad—the most in the group. Guam claimed six berths, while the Federated



Coach Jeff Race poses with CNMI junior players at the departure area of the Saipan International Airport in June before they leave for Guam for the 2011 North Pacific Qualifying Tournament.

States of Micronesia and Palau had two each.

In the POJC, Ackerman made it big when she topped the girls U12 singles, beating Rastguir in the finals. Miller placed runner-up in the boys U15, while Jones and Lopez placed fourth in the boys U16 and girls U15,

respectively, and Minor was ranked fifth in the girls U18.

With her impressive showing in the NPQ and POJC, Ackerman received a scholarship from the Oceania Tennis Federation and she will be the first CNMI netter to train in the regional facility in Fiji.



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12



Members and officials of the CNMI Baseball Team receive their gold medals during the awards ceremony for the 2011 Pacific Games in Noumea, New Caledonia. The CNMI beat Guam in the finals, 8-4.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Tribune Sports

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TOP STORIES 2011

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CNMI Baseball reasserted its regional dominance in the sport when it struck gold in the 2011 Pacific Games in Noumea, New Caledonia.

Baseball gold in Noumea

Editor's note: A year's full of highlights is summed up in Saipan Tribune's Top Sports Stories of 2011. Heading the list is the CNMI Baseball Team's gold-medal win in the XIV Noumea Pacific Games followed closely by the CNMI U15 boys team's upset of Macau in an EAFF youth tourney in Taiwan. Also on the list is Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial annexing the PXC championship belt and local tracksters and swimmers making the CNMI proud in off-island events.

A year after surrendering the baseball gold to Palau in the 2010 Micronesian Games

in Koror, the Commonwealth snuck over to New Caledonia on less than a month's notice

and returned home with the Pacific Games gold medal after an 8-4 comeback victory over

archival Guam last September.

The gold medal-winning CNMI Baseball Men's Team is made up of Vince Cepeda, Jerome Delos Santos, Franco Flores, Jesus and Mike Iguel, Thomas Joab, Joshua Jones, Byron Kaipat, Keoni Lizama, Juan Maratita, Tyrone Omar,

Ian Rogolifo, Manny Sablan, Elton Santos, and Eric Tenorio.

Tony Rogolifo served as manager and Craig Sanchez was the coach. Saipan Major League Baseball Association president Rose Igitol accompa-

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Historic win for CNMI strikers

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The CNMI U15 National Team made history this year when it won over Macau, 2-1, in the 2011 East Asian Football Federation U15 Youth Tournament held in Taipei, Taiwan, last July.

The victory was a first for any CNMI soccer squad that competed in an international tournament. Jehn Joyner and Jireh Yobech played big roles in the historic win, as they canned one goal each in the Commonwealth's game against Macau. Their goals were also the first two goals the CNMI scored in the EAFF youth competition. In the Commonwealth's first three stints (2006, 2008, and 2010) in the EAFF event, the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association-backed squads went home winless and failed to score a single goal.

Joining Joyner on the historic team were Dakota Hall, Jireh Yobech, Jordan Butcher, Enrico del Rosario, Ethan Dickinson, Kenneth Domingo, Gregzon Fontanilla, Joel and Mason Fruit, William Hinson II, Kennedy Izuka, Hunter Jewell, Andrew Johnson,

Angelo Jones, Jake Lee, Sean Perez, and John Taisacan. Jerishwin Angeles and Kiyoshi Sekiguchi coached the team, while NMIFA general secretary Ed Salas, Kentaro Imaya, and Carrie Schuler served as team officials.

Soccer school opens

A month before the triumphant CNMI youth strikers made a trip

See HISTORIC on Page 34



◀ The CNMI's Jehn Joyner collides against the Macau goalie during their game in the 2011 East Asian Football Federation U15 Youth Tournament held in Taipei, Taiwan, last July. The CNMI beat Macau, 2-1.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

▼ Youth players from the five clubs on Saipan pose with local and sports officials, visitors, and guests during the opening of the Saipan Soccer School at the TSL Sports Complex in June.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

